

Classical Music DJ In Israel

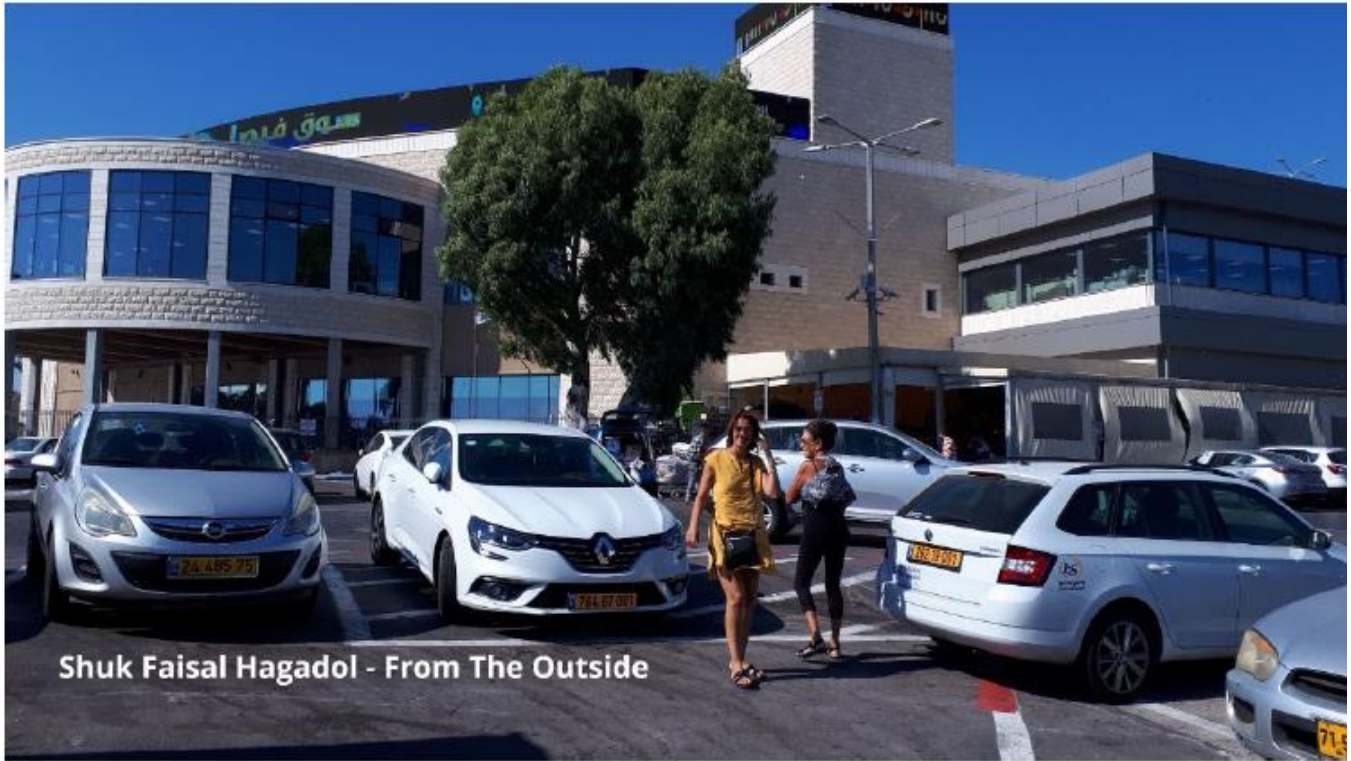
July 5, 2019

Another week has passed, and I am almost at the end of my volunteering efforts here. During this week I have travelled up and down Israel for various programs. I did my third and final program at the social club for holocaust survivors in Bat Yam, the working class city just south of Tel Aviv. Again, I was warmly received with my program “Around The World With Flash Mobs”, with everyone singing along to the more popular tunes. Then It was back up north to Shavei Zion, Ma’alot and Kfar Vradim where I did programs at places where some of my relatives and people they knew, recommended me and my programs. I hope to be able to come back and do more for them on a subsequent trip because I love that area of Israel the best.

And then I went back to Tel Aviv for a special program where I was one of the speakers at a conference on music therapy, organized by the head of the occupational therapy department at Bayit Balev, the rehabilitation hospital in Bat Yam. This time I was one of 4 speakers at the conference, attended by about 30 people, all of whom work in the area of therapy for the elderly. It felt good that I was recognized as a “professional” in this area, based on my experience. From my perspective I think I am still a rank amateur, but I will keep doing this as long as it is fun. Which it is.

I know that many of you think I am crazy, but I would now really like to prove it. One of the highlights of my trip, and a must see for everyone visiting Israel, is a visit to Shuk Faisal Hagadol (Faisal’s Big Market). It is the biggest and the most interesting supermarket you will see anywhere in the world. See pictures below. It is located in an Arab town called Mazra’a located on the main highway leading to the city of Nahariya. It is perhaps the best example I have seen of how Israelis – Jews and Arabs – easily work, shop and live together. It was founded by Aslan Halil, Faisal’s father, who started from a fruit stand in Mazra’a, and built what is now a huge, beautiful, 2-level, shopping complex. The bottom floor has all the food products, while the upper level, accessible by a moving walkway to accommodate shopping carts, has all the household products and a nice buffet style restaurant featuring all your Middle Eastern favourites (falafel, houmous, shwarma, etc.) The majority of the employees are from Mazra’a and are mostly young, as you would find in any supermarket, going about their jobs stocking the shelves, at various service counters and at the checkout. The shoppers, Jews and Arabs alike, come from all over Nahariya and the Western Galilee, but also from as far away as Haifa. I don’t want to be political here, but it does present an image of Israel that you rarely see outside the country. On your next trip to Israel, take some time to see this place. It is a wonderful experience.

Next week it is back to Jerusalem for a few programs to wrap it all up before I return in July 14.



Shuk Faisal Hagadol - From The Outside



Shuk Faisal Hagadol - Olive Selections



