

FINE ARTS THRIVE IN ISRAEL

BY JAMES LEWIN

The sensitivity and sophisticated enthusiasm of guest conductor Leonard Bernstein conquered the hearts of music lovers at this year's Jerusalem Spring Festival. With the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, accompanying Jean-Pierre Rampal performing on flute in one concert, and cello - soloist Mstislav Rostropovich in another, it was not the first time, by a long shot, for Bernstein in Israel. His first appearance in this country was back in 1947, and in 1949 he conducted an open - air concert for the troops who had just conquered Beersheva.

This year, between performances, he received an honorary doctorate at the Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus "in tribute to his outstanding service to humanity in the field of music, and to his great contribution to the enrichment of the cultural life of Israel and this University." For his grand finale, he appeared in open - air concert in the Sultan's Pool outside the Old City walls. The program consisted of three of Bernstein's own compositions, including one dedicated to the memory of Yadin Tennenbaum, a classical flautist killed in the Yom Kippur War in the first tank crossing the Suez Canal. Entitled Halil ("Flute"), the composition, according to music critic Yohanan Boehm, combines "tonal and a-tonal texture to describe the fears and the threats of war, the great yearning for life, and the consolation he be found in art, love and the hope for peace."

Among other noteworthy developments, the Israel Harp Society decided to push harder for harp music in Israel. Also twenty or so musicians, mostly from America, put together the Jerusalem Brass Ensemble, to further the cause of wind instruments. The 100th birthday of Bela Bartok inspired a whirlwind of memorial concerts, including a "Bartok Marathon" lasting from five in the afternoon until midnight.

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Zubin Mehta, toured three South American countries on a junket paid for by the local Jewish communities. Not only was the trip an artistic triumph but it also strengthened the bonds between Israel and the Jews of Argentina,

Uruguay and Brazil.

In the realm of pop music, Israel was represented in the Eurovision song contest by a pregnant Shlomit Aharon and her three man accompaniment, singing "Layla, Layla." The group known as Hakol Over Habibi (Everything Passes, Pal) was one of the best entries in the competition, even though the British entry won first prize. This past year in Israel, Jazz fans had the chance to hear Pearl Bailey live at the Sultan's Pool and a week of Jazz in Jerusalem under the guiding light of Chick Corea.

Exhibitions of the fine arts this past year in Israel included a tribute to Renaissance architect Brunelleschi and a collection of etchings by Picasso. Ivan Scwebel, one of Jerusalem's best - known living painters, exhibited his latest works in a local gallery before leaving for a show in New York. A mini - retrospective of Anna Ticho was offered in another gallery. A "Homage to Reuven Rubin," pioneer Zionist painter, also received considerable notice. The Israel Museum opened an exhibition of American artist Morris Louis. The Tel Aviv Museum featured "American Painting of the 80's," a show organized by art critic and historian Barbara Rose of New York, which attempted to indicate the direction of art in the new decade.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The El - Op Electro-Optical Company has disclosed for the first time its Spirtact early warning instrument which detects oncoming rockets by the thermal rays they emit, it was reported here. The instrument, which costs \$1 million, cannot itself be detected by enemy radar. The equipment is already installed in Israeli naval vessels and will be ready for export shortly.

TORONTO (WNS) -- The Canadian Bar Association has adopted a resolution calling on the government to broaden its criteria for the trial and persecution of persons in Canada accused of war crimes.

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