

Tel Aviv Wind Quintet

Roy Amotz - Flute

Yigal Kaminka - Oboe

Danny Erdman - Clarinet

Itamar Leshem - Horn

Nadav Cohen - Bassoon



The **Tel Aviv Wind Quintet** was founded in 2009 by young Israeli musicians, and quickly established itself as a leading chamber ensemble, excelling in rich repertoire and multidisciplinary works involving movement and theatre. Today, the quintet performs more than 30 concerts each season all around Israel, including its most prestigious concert venues, such as the YMCA (at the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival), the Jerusalem Music Centre, the Mormon University, Henry Crown Hall in the Jerusalem Theater, the Israel Conservatory and the Tel-Aviv Museum. Special emphasis is placed on creating perennial cultural and educational programs for underprivileged communities in the periphery of Israel, from Kfar Blum to Mitzpe Ramon.

International tours brought the Quintet to Switzerland, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, and China. Upcoming performances and collaborations are planned in Canada, the USA and the UK. An integral part of the quintet's credo is to perform and record music by leading Israeli composers of all generations. Recent collaborations include Menachem Zur, Eitan Steinberg, Aharon Harlap, Arie Shapira, Amit Gilutz and Tzvi Avni. In addition, the ensemble regularly hosts workshops for young composers and composition students in partnership with the Israel Composer's League.

The quintet is a member of the Independent Musicians Organization of the Felicia Blumental association. It is supported by the Culture Administration of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. It was awarded the Eilam prize for Israeli performers (2011) as well as grants from the Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts, Haifa Arts Foundation, the Ronen Foundation and the Israel Lottery Council for Culture & Arts. The TAWQ's Debut album was released in the end of 2016, including works by Bach, Beethoven, Ari Ben-Shabetai (World premiere recording) and Piazzolla. 'LIVE', the ensemble's second album, was released in April 2018. It includes live concert recordings, collaborating with pianist Yaron Kohlberg.

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*Tel Aviv
Wind Quintet*

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From the press

“A charming chamber arrangement of "Peter and the Wolf". The Tel Aviv Wind Quintet members, directed by Ari Teperberg, have created a new format... Five players are responsible for the solo parts, the orchestral playing, and even the narration, the story telling, and the acting. This format works particularly well thanks to the talents of Quintet... the excellent playing of this group was no surprise, but the graceful and humorous theatrical presentation made this show especially enjoyable”

Amir Mandel, 'Weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 25.11.2020

“One of the leading and most interesting ensembles in the local scene - the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet... five talented musicians present a noble exchange of chamber music”

Gali Margalit, Spot It Magazine, 4.6.2020

“The Quintet members subtly played into the dissonances of Mozart’s lush harmonic language in a rich blending of timbres...With much lively and expressive dialogue between flute and clarinet, the players were convincing in setting out Bach’s trio construction, dynamic energy and elegance... The players gave Rossini’s work much Italian sparkle and joie-de-vivre, also, highlighting the pensive, expressive character of the Andante movement... The playing gave poignant expression to the work’s many layers... The players also brought out its mix of wit and cynicism. The TAWQ’s performance showed that music that is complex in its own terms can still be easily accessible to the ear. The Quintet’s articulacy, technical teamwork, finesse and richness of tone produced a congenial soupçon of pizzazz”

Pamela Hickman's concert critique blog, 27.5.2020

“Excelling in judicious shaping of phrases and subtle sonorities... the artists’ presentation was polished and confrontational, but also entertaining...the TAWQ members gave fresh and vibrant expression to the piece... produced a finely compatible, evocative canvas. Danny Erdman’s playing was polished, whimsical and suitably teasing... concluding an evening of fine performance and variety” Pamela Hickman's concert critique blog, 17.2.2020

“The excellent musicians of the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet present a new and ambitious version to Prokofiev’s famous piece... the audience reaction demonstrated the power of the combination between music and theatre”

Amir Mandel, 'Weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 3.10.2019

“The Tel Aviv Wind Quintet consists of excellent musicians that assembled this high quality ensemble during the last decade.They mark the end of their season in Israel in an intense concert series. The program, as usual with this group, Ignite curiosity”

Amir Mandel, 'Weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 29.5.2019

“...Bach would surely have enjoyed hearing Mordechai Rechtman’s arrangement of his organ Trio Sonata performed by Amotz, Erdman and Cohen... a test of the players’ dexterity, maintaining articulacy and tension deriving from tempi that never allowed textures to become dense or inarticulate. In the serene, richly-harmonized Largo, they gave emphasis to poignant, well-crafted melodic shaping, with Amotz adding some Baroque-style ornamentation. As to the final Allegro, the artists’ playing of its vivid and intricate fugal textures kept the listener at the edge of his seat and definitely involved. The concert concluded with Paul Hindemith’s “Kleine Kammermusik”... Following the lively and energetic first movement and the following languid yet appealing waltz - the third movement is much like an elegy... Blending its autumnal colours with gentle, appealing sentiments, the TAWQ

players created a thought-provoking mood piece. Intense and frenetic, the fourth movement, only 23 bars long, was nevertheless another opportunity to hear some brilliant playing, with cadenzas for each instrument. For their encore... the artists gave freshness and appeal to Bernstein's Overture to "Candide". Comprising five outstanding players, the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet never fails to please and entertain, offering dedicated performance of the highest level." Pamela Hickman's concert critique blog, 3.4.2019

"The excellent Tel Aviv Wind Quintet in an attractive program..."
Haggai Hitron, Ha'aretz 2.4.2019

"The audience was fascinated and applauded enthusiastically for a few minutes... the quintet exceeded the high expectations with a moving and touching performance. The musicians are all top-class soloists with the best international education and experience, interpreting old and contemporary works equally well" Die Rheinpfalz, 8.10.2018

"A memorable and emotional concert... Great virtuosity... very lively, excellent performance... full house, long applause" Blick-aktuell, 8.10.2018

"The quintet excited the audience with pieces by Bach, Verdi, Rossini, Weill and Hindemith. The long and loud applause did not let the players get off the stage" Stadtzeitung Bad-Neuenahr Ahrweiler, October 2018

"Five top of the line musicians" Mainz Allgemeine Zeitung, October 2018

"At the heart of the festival we discovered exceptional musicians... a beacon on their own Mediterranean shores...they played through a program that explores three centuries of music history with virtuosity and talent" Jacques Freschel, Zibeline Journal, 21.8.2018

"The works in the quintet's album draw a portrait that should be named, without exaggeration, a perfect concert" Haggai Hitron, Ha'aretz 30.7.2018

"Editor's choice: The program of 'Live', the quintet's second album, was tastefully chosen and combines the classical grace of Mozart and Rossini, along with unusual presence of the 20th century - Weill, Berio, Francaix; In between comes the romantic peak in a form of a successful arrangement of Till Eulenspiegel by Richard Strauss. Everything is presented very well as usual, eloquently played, inviting further listening and deepening in the experience"
Amir Kidron, Music4awhile, 20.7.2018

"The Tel Aviv Wind Quintet conquered the hearts of the public in Bern! It was an exciting evening full of emotion, magical sounds and interesting explanations, all spiced with humor. The young and energetic Israeli musicians caught the listener's attention from the first note - they were musical, full of expression and charisma... " Neuland magazine, July 2018

"A vigorous tour of the excellent wind quintet"

Amir Mandel, 'weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 26.4.2018

“An adventure... musical kaleidoscope demonstrating various styles in the Israeli woodwind repertoire... such a colorful and complex concert depends mostly on the performance – that was entrusted to the excellent Tel Aviv Wind Quintet”

Amir Mandel, 'weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 18.1.2018

“Martinu’s Nonet that opened the evening was a successful choice...it received a high level of performance” Omer Shomroni, Opus Magazine, 5.9.2017

“The Tel Aviv Wind Quintet in a spectacular performance... Riding without stopping, the best wind players in Israel” Haggai Hitron, Ha'aretz 3.9.2017

“As they usually do, the members of the excellent Quintet will present a program which is an exciting journey between styles and musical eras”

Amir Mandel, 'weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 31.8.2017

"The young Israeli musicians captured the audience from the very first note with beautiful and sensitive interpretations all throughout the evening... The warm sound of the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet and singer Einat Aronstein filled the hall... The eloquent explanations of the quintet members accompanied together with the vivid interpretations of the ensemble fascinated the audience and made the evening into a wonderful journey”

Tachles – the Swiss-Jewish Community Magazine, 7.2017

“Editor’s choice: an hour of delight with the debut album of the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet. It shows the uniqueness of the ensemble - professional sound and varied repertoire which aims to support the local and contemporary compositions without neglecting the classics, that too with a refreshing point of view... The album begins with beautiful arrangements of Mordechai Rechtman to pieces by Bach and Beethoven, played in a polished and refined manner by the group. The conservative listener shouldn’t be afraid of Ari Ben-Shabetai’s thrilling ‘Winks’ which was composed especially for the Quintet. The excellent playing will convince even the ‘Piazzola snobs’ to hear the concluding Libertango” Amir Kidron, Music4awhile, 21.5.2017

“Making full use of stage, the TAWQ players delivered both music and repartee in a masterly, brisk and polished manner... energy, humor and precision in the performance. The artists indeed captured the Rossini soundscape, as the work showcased each of these fine players in its gamut of melodies, jocularly, elegance and vivacity. Solos were accompanied with elegance. The TAWQ players launched their sophisticated interpretational skills... the quintet’s substantial, richly spiced joint sound gave fine representation to the work’s revolutionary satire... the TAWQ and Kohlberg’s performance of it was strategically timed, finely coordinated, colorful, dynamic and decidedly whimsical... each member of the Tel Aviv Wind Quintet is a unique artist and soloist on the international scene.... outstanding, home-grown musicians, fine programming and deep enquiry into each work made for an evening of high quality performance and pure enjoyment”

Pamela Hickman's concert critique blog, 3.5.2017

"Not to be missed! For those curious to hear an excellent quintet... original and exciting program, wonderful!" Hanoch Ron, Yedioth Ahronoth 28.4.2017

"An intensive concert tour in addition to a unique combination of pieces. A varied, interesting and colorful program in each concert"

Amir Mandel, 'weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 27.4.2017

"The Tel-Aviv Wind Quintet is an excellent woodwind ensemble, it stands out in the chamber music scene thanks to a high-performance level and a varied, intriguing repertoire. Their first CD is exactly the kind of albums that break the routine and which I will hurry and buy... a promising program, especially for those who admire the special sound of a wind quintet... a curiously colorful and enjoyable cocktail of tones"

Amir Mandel, 'Weekly recommendation', Haaretz 22.12.2016

"The Tel Aviv Wind Quintet is an excellent woodwind ensemble with wide repertoire, from early baroque to contemporary music... delightful recordings of the quintet, one of the best performances I've heard" Amir Mandel, 'weekly recommendation', Ha'aretz 1.9.2016



Roy Amotz - Flute

Born in Jerusalem in 1982, Roy resides in Berlin nowadays, performing as a soloist and in various chamber music formations around the world. His teachers in Israel include Vladimir Silva, Moshe Epstein, Yossi Arnheim and Avner Biron. He graduated degrees in musical performance and early music practice from the Berlin University of Arts (with Prof Staeger and Prof. Hungeburth, both with honors). Engagements in the early music field include working with the Akademie für alte Musik Berlin, as well as concerts with "Zoom Quartet", with which he won the Biagio-Marini international early music Competition. Other prizes Roy received include the first prize in the International Flute Competition in Greece and the Pergamenchikow Prize in Berlin with "Trio Vis", with whom he created the crossover "64 Things Show" inspired by John Cage.

Roy was a member of the acclaimed Meitar Ensemble for Contemporary Music for more than a decade. The Ensemble has performed in Israel and abroad in numerous festivals including the Venice Biennale and the Manifeste Festival in Paris. Personal collaborations with composers lead to the creation of three new flute concerti. Since 2013 Roy is the principal flutist of the Geneva Camerata - an innovative ensemble performing music all the way from early music to contemporary music. His performances as a soloist include the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra and the Scotland BBC Symphony Orchestra.

In 2017 Roy founded a new platform called "Music and Beyond", aiming to present classical music in new contexts, and to create a transformative experience for audience and performers. The first project of this platform is called "Fantasies", and is a sensory journey exploring the relationship of our senses to each other from a new perspective.



Yigal Kaminka - Oboe

Born in 1983, Yigal Kaminka holds a double M.A degree and a third degree in Oboe and Recorder from the Karlsruhe University, Germany. He won several competitions, including the 2009 “Aviv Competition” where he won 1st prize in all three categories. He is a founding member of the international “Berlin Counterpoint” sextet, with whom he performed in numerous music festivals in Europe and South-America.

Yigal performed as soloist and as principal oboist in various orchestras, including the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Israeli Philaharmonic Orchestra, Daniel Barenboim’s West-Eastern Divan and others. Between 2011-2015 Yigal was the Principal oboist of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. In 2010 Yigal founded JoyTunes, a startup developing new technological solutions to music education and practice motivation. The company has over 8 million students in over 110 countries and has won prestigious awards, including a special award from the United Nations.



Danny Erdman – Clarinet

Danny Erdman has performed across Israel, Europe, and United States both as a soloist and a chamber musician. The youngest artist to perform at the first EuroCass convention in 1997, Danny has also participated in festivals such as Ostend, Paris, Norfolk, Sarasota and Aspen. He holds music performance degrees from Tel Aviv University, Yale University and the Zurich School of Arts. An Avid Chamber and new music performer, Danny is a member of the Israel contemporary players and a founding member of the Tel Aviv wind quintet. Between 2007 – 2015 he was the principle clarinetist of the Israel Chamber Orchestra. Starting in 2017 he is the principle clarinetist of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Danny served in the Israeli army for three years as an "Outstanding Musician". Since 1996 he had been a recipient of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship. Among his mentors are Eva Wasserman, Ron Selka, David Shifrin and Matthias Müller.



Nadav Cohen, Bassoon

Born in 1983, Nadav started his bassoon studies with Uzi Shalev. After serving in the IDF as an Outstanding Musician, he completed his B. Mus degree in the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (JAMD) in bassoon with Mr. Mauricio Paez and composition with Prof. Yinam Leef. He continued his bassoon studies under the tutorship of Prof. Ole Kristian Dahl in Cologne alongside baroque-bassoon studies with Donna Agrell at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. Nadav was awarded scholarships from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and the Ronen Foundation. He won the JAMD President's Excellence Award and first prize at the Yidor-Avni Composition competition. Following his graduation, Nadav became principal bassoonist of the Israel Camerata Jerusalem and has been chosen to participate in numerous advanced training programs such as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment Experience, the Britten-Pears Orchestra and the Aldeburgh World Orchestra. During 2012-2013 Nadav completed his Master degree of contemporary music performance as a member of the International Academy of Ensemble Modern in Frankfurt; since then he had collaborated regularly with Ensemble Modern in prestigious concert venues such as the Berlin Philharmonie, Oper Frankfurt and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

A devoted chamber music player, Nadav was a member of the Parisian woodwind quintet "Le concert impromptu" between 2014 and 2017. In addition to his activity as a founding member and a producer of the Tel-Aviv Wind Quintet he is a member of the award winning Meitar Ensemble (Since 2006), where he functions also as a faculty member of its "Tedarim" program - a unique Master's degree for contemporary music in the Jerusalem Academy. At the beginning of 2018 Nadav released his debut Solo CD "Animate", dedicated to new music written for bassoon.



Itamar Leshem, Horn

Itamar started playing the horn at the age of 12. Today he is performing regularly with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Israel, the U.S.A, Asia, and Europe and recently performed with them as a soloist under the baton of Maestro Zubin Mehta in Israel and on tours in South America and Europe. He also performed as a soloist with orchestras in China. In concert season 2019 - 2020 Itamar was playing with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra as well as with the BBC Philharmonic as guest principal horn. Itamar has graduated from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Roosevelt University, studying with Mr. Dale Clevenger in Chicago. His studies were supported by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Itamar has performed in some of the most distinguished festivals such as the Salzburg Festival, Lucerne Festival, the Proms, Jerusalem Chamber music Festival, Landsberg Chamber music Festival and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Teatro Colon and La Scala. He is a member of the West-Eastern Divan orchestra under Maestro Daniel Barenboim and former member of the Israel Symphony Orchestra, Rishon Le'Zion. In recent years he has guided the horn section of the Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and teaches at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in the Tel Aviv University.



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