

ON THE TOWN



If You Go

Israel Chamber Orchestra presents "The Force of Music"

WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m.

WHERE: Rialto Center, Georgia State

TICKETS: \$36-\$62

FURTHER INFORMATION: Call (404) 651-4727 or visit www.rialtocenter.org.



Nizan Leibovich

Amit Peled

Israel Chamber Orchestra Visits Atlanta

By SUZI BROZMAN
The Jewish Times

In a rare visit to North America, the Israel Chamber Orchestra will perform at Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, Oct. 27, in a salute to GILEE, the Georgia-International Law Enforcement Exchange.

The orchestra, which plays all over Israel and makes frequent trips to Europe and the Far East, last toured the United States in 1998.

A mutual acquaintance put the orchestra's conductor, Nizan Leibovich, in touch with GILEE's founder, Georgia State University professor Robbie Friedmann, who described his reaction: "This is a first for GILEE, a public event, to have a 38-member chamber orchestra at the Rialto, on the one hand dealing with law enforcement, telling the public what we are doing, and on the other, bringing in an artistic flavor from Israel to salute the law enforcement community. It is important for the community to recognize how much law enforcement in Georgia has done for Israel and vice versa. I was thrilled with the idea and I am excited and proud to be doing it."

Leibovich is no stranger to Atlanta. His first visit came as a teenager, when he was part of a delegation of high school students from Yehud, Atlanta's sister city, and spent part of a summer in Georgia. His

fondest memory of that visit was seeing "Happy Birthday Nizan Leibovich" flashed on the screen at a Braves game.

The Tel Aviv-based ensemble is internationally acclaimed, but "you won't hear them again any time soon unless you come to Israel or see them on their next tour," Leibovich said. "Their artistry shines in this festive program, compiled espe-

Stop on rare tour honors GILEE, law enforcement

cially for this tour. It starts with a joyful Prokofiev symphony, then a masterful piece by Shostakovich, one of the major pieces of the 20th century, with a wonderful Israeli soloist. Then comes an Israeli piece, and finally a celebration of sounds in Beethoven's 'Eighth Symphony.' It isn't performed often enough.

"I am keen on programming music of the 20th century, not just old music, but Beethoven is always up-to-date when you put him in context. The audience will experience the whole concert in a new light, hearing how strong it is and how one can relate to it, not just as a museum piece from the past."

The orchestra's cello soloist, Amit Peled, will conduct a master class Oct. 26. For information, contact Martha Gerschefski at musmsg@langate.gsu.edu. Peled, born and raised on Kibbutz Yizreel, has

been a featured guest artist in some of the world's major concert halls, including St. Martin in the Fields, Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall. He serves on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore and is a frequent guest at international music festivals.

The ICO's schedule includes a dress rehearsal open to students Oct. 26 and a

special program by five members of the ICO at a children's concert at the Marcus Jewish Community Center on Oct. 28.

Leibovich and the other musicians want to show that they support the work GILEE is doing to help keep Israel and the rest of the world safe from terrorism.

GILEE's mission is to enhance inter-agency cooperation between Georgia law enforcement agencies and the police force in Israel, including programs for and by corresponding law enforcement officials in the two jurisdictions. GILEE depends on funding from private sources and law enforcement agencies, as well as technical and logistical support from public organizations, civic associations and government sources.

In his 2003 Israeli Independence Day remarks, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue said: "In these troubled times of global strife

and the war on terrorism, the United States and Israel stand side by side, as friends and allies. We share a common cause against terror and tyranny and for the mutual protection of our citizens. Here in Georgia, dozens of law enforcement personnel have participated in the GILEE law enforcement exchange program with Israel. Israelis have long lived with the daily reality of terrorism that most Americans only awakened to after 9/11. Learning from the expertise of Israel's law enforcement community in combating terror will help Georgia's law enforcement better protect our citizens, and we are grateful."

Friedmann recently wrote a book on terrorism, documented from his four-year study of incidents.

"The impetus to write the book came from a conversation with someone who told me to cool it down, the intifada is not a tragedy, it's a public disturbance, not the Holocaust," Friedmann said. "But I responded it is our responsibility. It was a calling, an important mission, a statement that had to be made. The sad reality of terrorism is that we need to be aware of it rather than shove it under the carpet and say it won't happen to us."

The professor will discuss the book, "A Diary of Four Years of Terrorism and Anti-Semitism 2000-2004," at the Atlanta Jewish Book Festival at the Marcus Jewish Community Center on Sunday, Nov. 13. □