

## Or Yissachar – biography

Pianist and composer Or Yissachar is an Israeli classical musician. Laureate of the America-Israel Culture Fund, he has become increasingly known in recent years for his focus on performance of Israeli works for piano, including his own works. He thus won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Paul Ben Haim performance competition for Israeli music, and was invited to play in halls in the United States, France, Israel, Portugal, Germany, Italy and elsewhere. His original repertory for piano, chamber and orchestral media brought him to win the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Israeli Composition Competition arranged by the Tel Aviv Conservatory Shtriker, and reach the finals of the prestigious Dvorak Competition, among others. His works were also performed by ensembles such as Meitar.

Having gone through rigid musical education focusing on the heritage of the traditional school, Or dedicated much of his career for the performance and analysis of music from different époques, from Medieval through Baroque and Classical to the Romantic and modern age, including Piano Concerti by Beethoven, Schumann and Shostakovich, Piano Sonatas by Mozart, Schubert and Haydn, and chamber works by Dvorak, Menotti and Brahms. Or played under the baton of Ovidiu Balan with the Bacau Philharmonic Orchestra, and of Bernhard Forck in the Israeli premiere of Telemann's Orpheus.

Or has participated in numerous festivals worldwide, including Virtuoso Bel Canto in Italy and Tel Hai in Israel, and was given masterclasses by Michael Wladkowski, Adrian Brendel, Ofra Yitzhaki, Michal Tal, Assaf Zohar, Aquiles delle Vigne and others. Among the halls in which he performed are Maltz Center – Cleveland, Weigel Auditorium – Ohio State University, Souers Hall – Miami University, Fumagalli Theater – Italy, and the Clairmont and Shtriker Halls – Tel Aviv. He also played several times in the Israeli Music Festival, the exclusive "Youth in the Center" program and the Excellence Concert in Jerusalem (both were broadcasted on the national radio).

Grateful to his musical mentors, piano teachers Prof. Arnon Erez, Dalia Harel and Hanna Shalgj, and composition teachers Dr. Michael Damian and Prof. Joseph Bardanashvilli, Or attempts to bring a unique view on music making, interpretation and broad perspective. He also fully completed his military service and speaks 5 different languages. Having graduated the piano, composition and musicology departments in the Buchmann Mehta School of Music in Tel Aviv University, he is currently pursuing his master's studies in Paris.