

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It is with a great sense of mission that we are finally launching this new issue of *Min-Ad: Israel Studies in Musicology Online*. Dedicated to the Music of Israel, this issue addresses many close-to-heart areas of interest, and covers a wide range of perspectives that reflect our dynamic, multicultural reality. New, insightful information illuminates the traditions of music in the synagogue (Essica Marks); the development of Israeli art music from 1930 to the present day (Jehoash Hirshberg); connections between popular Israeli music and Western art music traditions (Yossi Goldenberg); the sources of our folk songs (Talila Eliram, Naama Ramot); songs composed to poems by the national poet Chaim Nachman Bialik (Natan Shahar); and evaluations of prominent Israeli artists' music (Tsippi Fleisher, Naphtali Wagner, Rosa Turskov). Critiques of concerts (Kramer-Babayoff) and information pertaining to recent publications by Israeli scholars conclude the issue.

Recognizing the special audio features available to an on-line journal, a live performance of the song "Mishehu," sung by Matti Caspi, enlivens and substantiates Tsippi Fleisher's article. We would like to thank Zev Ullman for assisting us in obtaining permission from ACUM to include this recording in our journal. I hope that future contributors also will take advantage of this possibility, and supplement their articles with live musical examples.

Gathering and presenting the material for this issue was indeed an exciting experience, though not without challenges. We quickly realized that addressing a wide range of local and international readers would necessitate a change in our general principle of publishing articles in English. To accommodate our Hebrew and our English readers, we have divided this issue into two sections—one in Hebrew and the other in English. Tsippi Fleisher's and Yossi Goldenberg's articles appear both in Hebrew and English, and Naphtali Wagner supplemented his Hebrew article with an English abstract. We recommend, however, that bilingual readers check both the Hebrew and the English sections to receive a complete description of the material contained in this expanded issue.

Looking forward to the future, I am pleased to report that our next issue will feature articles by David Kushner (Florida, U.S.A), Eliezar Rappaport (Israel) and Michael Bar-Shani (Israel). We welcome additional submissions in all fields of interest. Moreover, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, we will be particularly interested in articles dealing with *Mozart in Context*.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to my colleagues, who so willingly assisted in the publication of this issue: our anonymous readers; members of the editorial board: Judith Cohen, Don Harrán, Edwin Seroussi and Marina Ritzarev; Rachel Kollender, who graciously agreed to translate this note into Hebrew; Morel Koren for his high level of professionalism, patience, and abundant good will; Mali Ohana, for her professionalism and willingness to accommodate last-minute schedules; and Bar-Ilan University for serving as the home base for this journal.

Adena Portowitz, Editor