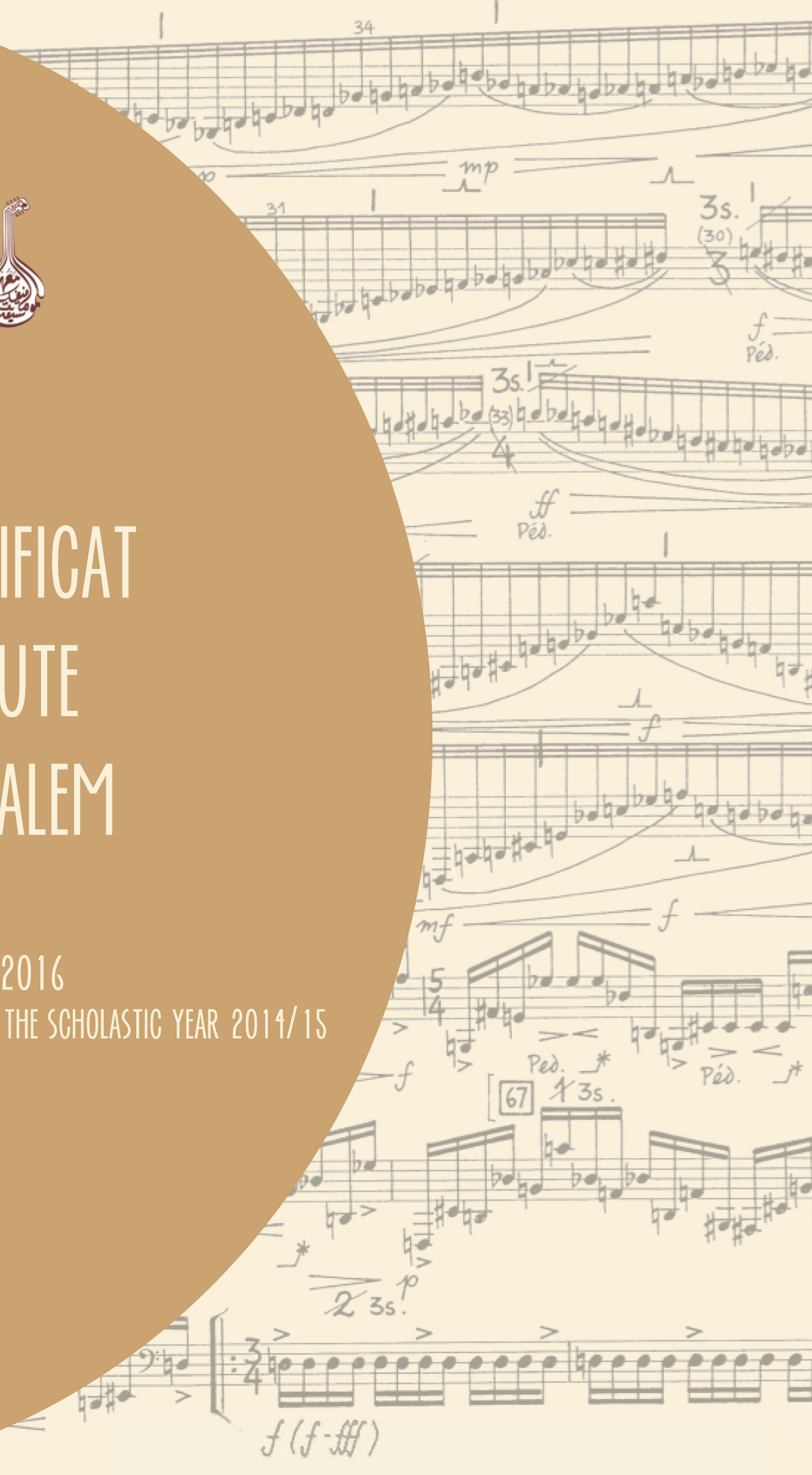




# MAGNIFICAT INSTITUTE JERUSALEM

YEARBOOK 2016

THE EVENTS OF THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR 2014/15



*Dear friends of the Magnificat,*

For the first time I pick up the time to write to you a few words and it's clear for me that the first thing to write is "Thank you!" Everything you will see in the next pages, all the many activities that could be organized for the benefit of our students would not have been possible without your support.

This year has been particularly intense for the Magnificat for several reasons. The first was the departure of our dear Father and Founder Fr. Armando Pierucci, who returned to Italy, to his province in the Marches in October 2014. A few months later, while remaining in Jerusalem, also Mrs. Hania S. Sabbara left the Magnificat after having served for 9 years as director of the Institute.

Their contribution through the long hours spent to put their talents and enthusiasm to serve the school and its children have made the Magnificat what it is today. Starting in 1995 with five professors and fifteen students, the school has now more than twenty teachers and about two hundred students. This is the fruit of their work and their vision. We wish both of them joy and happiness with their new commitments.

Meanwhile, the Magnificat, which this year celebrates its twenty years, has now grown and continues on his way, full of plans for the present and for the future. Among them, at the end of 2014 we launched, in collaboration with the Conservatory Arrigo Pedrollo of Vicenza in Italy - to which we are affiliated -, the academic program that allows students who complete the courses on our premises in Jerusalem to receive a bachelor's degree in music issued by the Ministry of Education of Italy and recognized throughout Europe.

To this we need to add the creation of the Board of Directors and of the Academic Council for the school; the appointment of a new director, in my person, and of a deputy director, Father Alberto Joan Pari OFM, graduate in flute at the Civic School of Music Santa Cecilia in Manerbio, former school teacher and vice principal in Italy and currently responsible of the liturgical chant for the Custody of the Holy Land; and yet, our dreams for a new location that will allow us to better meet the needs of our students, their parents, and the requirements of the new academic year, our choirs and orchestra. The project is proceeding rapidly, to the point that we have already reached the stage of fundraising. I hope to have from year to year, good news to offer in this regard.

For the rest, the next few pages will give you a taste of what has been achieved this year in the school of the Magnificat, all made possible thanks to your help and support, either financial or in prayer or in person, for those of you who agreed to give us their time and skills to help provide what is best for our students.

Peace and All Good,

**Fr. David Grenier**

Director of the Magnificat Institute

## The Magnificat at the Mormons [Nov. 23, 2014]

The Brigham Young University Jerusalem – also known as the Mormon's University – is housed in a beautiful building on the top of the Mount of Olives (East Jerusalem). From there, through the large windows of the University's auditorium, one gets a breathtaking view of the city.

The golden Dome of the Rock, shining in the night of Jerusalem, and the bell tower of the Franciscan Monastery of St. Saviour created a unique background to the concert featuring the best students of the Magnificat. For the ninth time in a row, the music school of the Custody of the Holy Land was included in the prestigious concert season organized by the Mormons.

Many of the programs offered by the Magnificat were present on stage: piano, violin, guitar, flute and voice.

"The Yasmeen Buds Choir" made up by the youngest students of the school and conducted with great sensibility by Mirjam Younan offered the first performance of the evening. Dressed in traditional Palestinian costumes, the choir brought to the auditorium the sounds and rhythm of the Arabic musical tradition.

The enthusiastic response of the audience - that filled completely the large auditorium – was reserved in particular to Hadi Sabat's delicate rendition of Chaminade's Concertino and Mohammad Al-Sheikh's passionate interpretation of Scriabin's Mazurka.

Piano students Jamileh Za'atreh and Katia Jolianian played Al Dabke, a composition of Fr. Armando Pierucci, the Franciscan friar who founded the Magnificat in 1995.

The young Fadi Sabat showed his impressive piano technique when he gave a performance of Slonimsky's Barnsley while Justeen Kourt mesmerized the audience with Cui's Valse in E minor.

The program included also the Sabbara trio (piano, violin and cello) and a quartet of 4 violins.

The Magnificat Orchestras directed by Robert Canetti wrapped up the evening with the 1960s classic *The Sound of Music*. Listening to the 30 + elements of the orchestra, the audience was reminded of Julie Andrews' performance in the homonymous film.

A great success, the evening was a feast for all lovers of good music.





## Magnificat String Competition [Dec. 12/13, 2014]

The 6th annual edition of the "Magnificat String Competition" was held between the white walls of the headquarters of the Custody of the Holy Land in Jerusalem.

The jury called upon to assess the young competitors, was very prestigious. In fact, the Magnificat was honoured by the presence of Maestro Enrico Pisa, director of the Conservatory "A. Pedrollo" of Vicenza, a major partner of the Institute. Together with him were the Maestros Shmuel Magen, Amer Nakhleh, Relm Handal, Br. George Lewet and Marco Lorenzetti.

The auditions took place all day on December 12: violin, viola, cello and guitar students of the Magnificat and other music schools of the region presented 2 pieces each – a compulsory one according to their category and a piece of choice.

The day after – on Saturday, December 13 at 6 p.m. – the winners' concert was held in the Auditorium Immacolata: protagonists were the young students who, in the auditions, had shown exceptional talent and a deep passion for music. During the execution of the demanding pieces, the winners showed a high degree of seriousness in their preparation, reached thanks to the meticulous work of their teachers. Congratulations to the winners of the first, second, third prize! And Congratulations to the Professors!



4

The event was opened with the warm welcome given by Mrs. Hania Sabbara, artistic director of the Magnificat Institute and conductor of the Yasmeen Choir. She thanked profusely the jury for their work and all the participants; a special mention was given to the priest of the "Madonna di Campagna" parish in Turin, Fr. Ferruccio Bartolozzi who donated to the Magnificat a precious violin that will enrich the collection of musical instruments of the Institute.

The opening speeches ended with Fr. David Grenier, director of the Magnificat, thanking the members of the association "Premio Vallesina" for funding the scholarships awarded to the winners of the competition.



One of the highlights of the evening was a Skype conference call with Andrea Garbini, the manager of the Garbini Consulting that sponsored the event. Mr. Garbini spoke about the initiative "risparmio virtuoso" (through which the Magnificat receives some of the money saved by companies that implement the optimization strategies devised by the Garbini's team). Mr. Garbini also surprised the audience when he played Beethoven's Ode to Joy with a plastic flute: the applauses that he received were never ending. Also Fr. Armando, the founder of the Magnificat, participated to the event when he appeared live on the big screen of the Auditorium. Some people in the audience had tears in their eyes.

At the end of the evening the winners were taken to that allows so many young best of themselves.



photos and videos of remember this event musicians to give the





## A Merry Christmas Concert [Dec. 22, 2014]

The Christmas concert featuring the Yasmeen Buds Choir, the Yasmeen Choir and the Knights Parish Choir, which took place on December 21, was a great success. The important annual event was held in the austere Latin parish church of St. Saviour in the presence of prominent local and foreign personalities from the music world, as well as representatives of different Churches and religious organizations.

Together with them, the many the young musicians and sing- the wonderful performance the Christmas spirit, the audi- talent of the young performers the teachers who accompanied



relatives and friends of ers, who applauded with pride. Uplifted by ence enjoyed the and the skills shown by and prepared them.

6

The program, which comprised traditional Christmas songs – international and local – was carried out with a superb interpretation that created, at times, disbelief in the audience who wondered if the musicians onstage were young students or established professionals.

The vocal and harmonic qualities of the performance left amazed even authoritative teachers of the major Italian conservatories (always very critical in their judgements).

Yes, on Christmas 2014, at the Custody of the Holy Land, the miracle happened again: an hour of music, an hour of listening to a religious prayer.

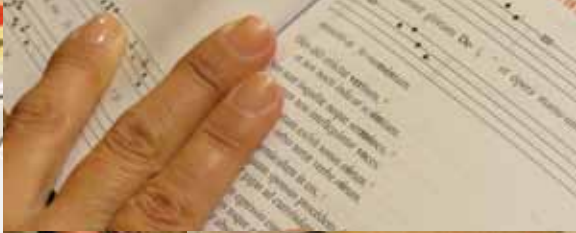
Thanks to the students of the Magnificat, thanks to the teachers for their preparation work, thanks to the conductors and a special thanks to the Director of Institute, who pro- n c o u r -

P.G.





The CTS Magnificat Choir at the Christmas Midnight Mass in Bethlehem



Christmas Night in Bethlehem

# Magnificat "Nikolaus de la Flüe" Piano Competition [Jan. 30/Feb. 1, 2015]

The 16th Edition of the Magnificat Piano Competition "Nikolaus de la Flüe" took place on Friday January 30 and Sunday February 1 in the Immaculata Hall in St. Saviour's Monastery, Jerusalem. This event also launches the celebrations for the 20th Anniversary, founded in 1995 by Fr. Armando Pierucci.

It all started on Friday January 30 with the auditions. A Jury formed by the Dr. Brent Jones (Piano Professor and Concert Assistant in BYU Jerusalem Centre), Fr. George Lewet (Organist of the Nativity Church), Fr. Markus Bugneir (Director of the Austrian Hospice), Mrs. Inna Dudakova (Organist of the Anglican Church), Mr. Gunther Martin (Music Director of the Redeemer Church), and the pianist Mrs. Rina Shechker, had the hard task to select the best pianists in each one of the 10 categories of the Competition.



The following Sunday, February 1, a huge crowd gathered in the Immaculata Hall to hear the performance of the young men and women chosen by the jury two days before. Addressing the packed hall, Ms. Véronique Nebel, President of the Association "Amici del Magnificat" in Switzerland, main sponsor of the event, introduced the Winners' Concert by highlighting the value and importance of the Piano Competition as part of the mission of the Magnificat Institute.

The Winners Concert kicked off with the youngest winner Wassem Khoury (Category A), followed by a student of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, Nathalie Rahman (Category B) who played Mozart's famous and unfinished Fantasy in D Minor, she rendered with skill the multi-tempo movement found in this dynamic piece.

After which, Fadi Sabat (Category C) proved that despite his young age, he possesses the right sensitivity and technique to perform the Romantic pieces of P. I. Tchaikovsky and F. Mendelssohn.

The winners of Category E and F, were Emmanuel Mnatzaganian and Annie Aslanian, respectively, senior students of Mrs. Emma Spitkovsky. As always, they captivated the audience with their renditions of pieces by S. Rachmaninoff, resulting in a resounding ovation by all present.

The winner of Category D, Mohammed Al Sheikh played with Fadi Sabat the arrangement for piano of J.S. Bach's Badinerie by M. Reger; four hands and twenty fingers of talent translating the quick pace and difficulty of the orchestral piece.





Mohammed Al Sheikh also won the Compagnia di San Giorgio Prize, for piano and orchestra. He played W. A. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12, 1st Movement, accompanied by the Magnificat Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Robert Canetti. Mohammed has proven himself as a serious and capable pianist, showing great versatility.



Basel Awwad, 2nd Prize winner in Category C, also received the prize offered by the Austrian Hospice in praise of his delivery of F. Chopin's Fantaisie Impromptu.

The Piano Competition: Winners' Concert was a success, a joyful event, during which young musicians had the opportunity to shine on stage to the delight of the teachers, the parents, the Jury, and the entire audience; the prizes were delivered with warm handshakes and embraces. This is only the first event in 2015, and one of many to mark the 20 Years since the founding of the Music School of the Custody of the Holy Land.



The Piano Competition was possible thanks to the support of the Amici del Magnificat, the Premio Vallesina, the Office of the Representative of the Republic of Poland to the Palestinian National Authority, the Compagnia di San Giorgio, the Zeppilli Family (Zia Pina Prize), the European Union, and for the first time this year, the Austrian Hospice in Jerusalem.



## From the Marches to the Holy Land [Feb. 24/25, 2015]

Fr. Armando returned to the Holy Land to play in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The Franciscan Armando Pierucci has left a deep mark in the Holy Land: proof of it was the warmth with which the audience greeted him at the end of his concert in the Church of San Salvatore, Tuesday, February 24th.

Former organist at the Holy Sepulchre, founder of the Magnificat Institute - the music school of the Custody of the Holy Land - and famous performer and composer, Father Armando returned to Jerusalem and Bethlehem to perform in concert. A real event, the two concerts were titled "From the Marches to the Holy Land," an expression that sums up the artistic and spiritual journey of Father Armando, a native and resident of the Marches who lived in Jerusalem for more than 25 years. Accompanying him on this journey were the Choir "Gaspere Spontini" from Moie of Maiolati (Italy), the Magnificat Choir of Jerusalem and two exceptional musicians: the baritone Gabriele Ruggero and trumpeter Marco Lorenzetti.



With its Italian Baroque décor, the Church of San Salvatore was the perfect place to host the concert: the interpretation of the compositions of Gaspere Spontini, Lino Liviabella, César Franck and Armando Pierucci created a wave of emotions in the audience sitting in the majestic nave of the church.

10

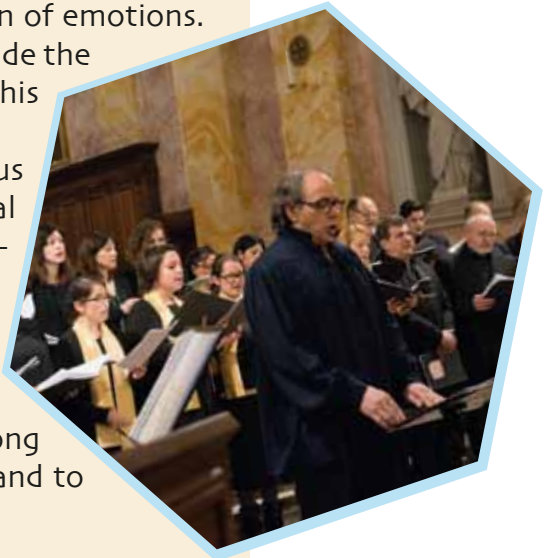


After an instrumental prelude played on the majestic Rieger organ, Father Armando and the choir, conducted by Maestro Hani Kreitem, played the piece "Gethsemane." Composed by Father Armando, this composition was inspired by the story of the night in which Jesus - after having supper for the last time with his apostles - gathered in prayer in the small olive grove of Gethsemane. It is a solemn composition that evokes with an intense simplicity the moment in which Jesus accepted the passion.

Another piece of Father Armando, characterized by a strong expressive power, was the Blessing of St. Francis, sung by the choir along with baritone Ruggero Giampiero under the direction of Maestro Michele Quagluarello.

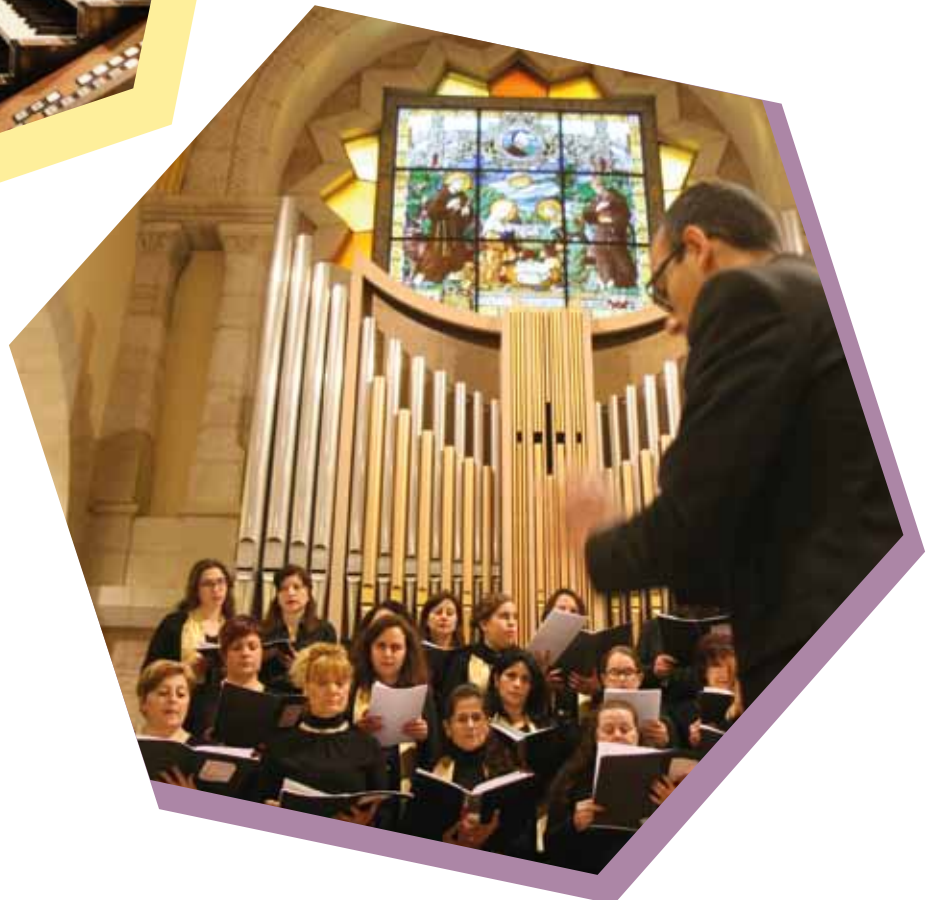
The text of the blessing that the Saint of Assisi gave to his companion Brother Leo, reads: "The Lord may bless you and keep you." On this blessing, Fr. Armando has built a musical architecture supported by the organ and embellished by the shrill trumpet of Marco Lorenzetti and the voice burnished of Gianpiero Ruggero. The powerful voice of Ruggero - who has sung in the theaters of Vienna, Tokyo and Berlin - resounded again in "Panis Angelicus" by César Franck.

Maestro Michele Quagliarello - founder and director of the choir "Gaspare Spontini" - led the chorus with energy and passion: under his direction, the singers managed to convey to the audience, a large constellation of emotions. The other director of the evening, Maestro Hani Kreteim, made the most of the the different voices of the choir to create, with his elegant gestures, sound masses of austere beauty. The last piece on the program, greeted by a thunderous applause, was the Mother of Mercy, Pr. Armando's personal homage to the patron saint of the parish of Moie, his birthplace.



After the concert, all the church you stood up to pay tribute to Father Armando. Former students, teachers, colleagues, religious of all denominations and simple music lovers long applauded the friar of the Marche who came to the Holy Land to serve the Church with the music.

The next day, Wednesday, February 25, the same concert was repeated in the Church of St. Catherine in Bethlehem. This time, to listen to the organ and choirs were pilgrims from Asia: music and prayer don't have barriers.





MOM  
Magnificat  
Open  
Music  
[Apr. 30/May 28]



The MOM "Magnificat Open Music Festival" took place from Thursday April 30 and every following Thursday in the month of May. The school "opened" up to the city of Jerusalem in order to share with the wider community its best students and teachers.

12



The MOM Festival is series of concerts dedicated to the performance of classical music by students and teachers of the Magnificat Institute, the Music School of the Custody of the Holy Land. Music is not only studied and taught, it must be played and performed; one of the objectives of MOM is to give students the chance to play in front of an audience. Finally, the MOM Festival is the wrap up of another successful Scholastic Year at the Magnificat Institute.





## 20 Magic Magnificat Years [Jun. 7, 2015]

Haig Vosgueritchian, Mirjam Younan, Hani Kreitem, Jiries Boullata....These are just a few names of the many professional musicians who graduated from the Magnificat Institute in Jerusalem.

Established in 1995 by the composer and organist Fr. Armando Pierucci, the music school of the Custody of The Holy Land celebrated its 20 years with a special event that took place Sunday, June 7 at the Auditorium Immaculata in the Old City of Jerusalem. The event soon turned in a real party whose invitees included the students and their families, friends of the school, representatives of different religious orders, ambassadors and consuls, intellectuals and music lovers.

A performance of Jiries Boullata's Arabic Rhapsody opened the evening. While the musicians played, on the screen behind them was projected a slideshow of photos telling the story of the Magnificat, a school open to all religions and nationalities. Following the screening of a video of Fr. Armando discussing the beginnings of that fabulous adventure called Magnificat, the director of the school Br. David Grénier gave a speech in which he traced the achievements of the institute (like the opening of the Academic courses in collaboration with the "Arrigo Pedrollo" Conservatory of Vicenza in Italy) and he thanked all the people and organizations that worked so tirelessly to create right here in Jerusalem, a place where music brings together in harmony people coming from different backgrounds. A special mention was given to Hania Soudah Sabbara who directed the institute with passion and energy since its inception.



14



The Magnificat Institute would not have existed without the support of the Custody of The Holy Land. Representing the Custody was the Custodial Vicar Fr. Dobromir Jaształ who, addressing the audience in the hall, remembered the objectives of the school: to serve the liturgy of the Latin Church (the Magnificat is in charge of the choir that sings during the major events of the liturgical calendar) and to offer a service to the local community (Christian and not). And this is why the Magnificat has become a place of study and dialogue.

The climax of the evening was the 11th Magic Lamp, an annual festival of Arabic songs for children. These songs, written and composed specifically for this occasion, are then published in booklets that are distributed to the schools of the region. Sharing the stage with the children of the Magnificat Yasmien Buds Choir, were the students of the Schmidt College who sang and performed choreographies inspired by the songs. The journalist Eman Al-Qassem, who hosted the event, introduced each piece



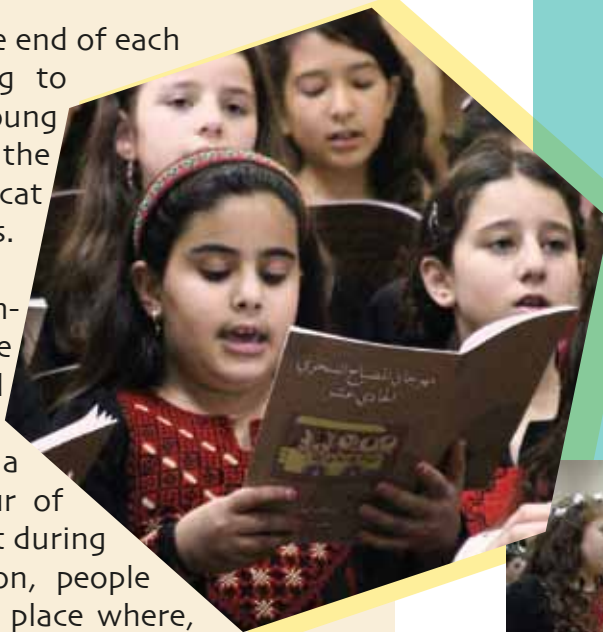
Accompanying the young artists were the Magnificat Orchestra (conducted by Robert Canetti), the Schmidt Oriental Ensemble (featuring also students from the Edward Said Conservatory of Music) and at the piano Hani Kreitem, Jiries Boullata and Haig Vosgueritchian.

The choir conductor was Mirjam Younan, festival curator together with Hani Kreitem.

The songs presented (composed by Rida Mabjish, Joseph Hazboun, Mirjam Younan, Jiries Boullata and Haig Vosgueritchian) deal with issues relating to childhood like the mother, road safety, the school. Sadly, the reality of kids living in this part of the world includes also war and violence, thus the songs "In Gaza" evoking the war of last summer and "Children of the World", a hymn to peace.

Endless applauses marked the end of each song, the audience wanting to acknowledge not only the young artists on the stage but also the hard work that the Magnificat has been doing all these years.

What is a birthday party without a cake? At the end of the concert, Br. David presented a cake and invited all the members of the audience to a celebratory buffet in honour of the school. And so it was that during a sunny Jerusalem afternoon, people celebrated the Magnificat, a place where, using the words of its founder Fr. Armando, the beauty of music unites beyond differences, even the most difficult to overcome.





## The Eucharistic Symphony in Turin

[Jun. 15, 2015]

The Eucharistic Symphony composed by Fr. Armando Pierucci, ofm, pieces together twelve different Christian traditions represented in Jerusalem, usually sung during the Eucharistic liturgy.

With the support, efforts, and participation of the City of Turin, Cantabile onlus, Semina la Pace onlus, the Politecnico Choir (Turin), Pequenas Huellas (International Orchestra for Peace), the Custody of the Holy Land, and the Magnificat Institute Jerusalem; under the direction of Maestro Giorgio Guiot, Fr. A. Pierucci's Eucharistic Symphony for soloists, flute, choir, and string orchestra was performed in the Basilica of Maria Ausiliatrice, Turin on June 15, 2015.



Five of the Magnificat Institute's own students participated in the performance of the Eucharistic Symphony: Claire Ghazzawi (Soprano), Jamil Freij (Tenor), Tareq Wahba (Bass), Shireen Abu Hadeed (Violin I), and David Aslanian (Violin II). The five students travelling from Jerusalem received a very warm welcome.

The Baritone, Fulvio Bussano, did the solo voice part and the young and talented Federico Altare played the flute part.

The first aim of the "Sinfonia Eucaristica" is to promote better understanding and mutual awareness between the Western and Eastern Churches; and organizing the 'second' performance of the Eucharistic Symphony in Turin, and inviting locals from Jerusalem to participate embodies that purpose.





## Piano Tour in Italy [Sep. 3/7, 2015]

Many people – among them musicians, friends and supporters coming from Jerusalem, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Sweden, and even Iceland – participated in the events held in the elegant Villa Cagnola (Varese, Italy), to mark the 20th anniversary of the Magnificat Institute of Jerusalem.

The events were also an opportunity to celebrate the 80th birthday of the founder of the institute, Fr. Armando Pierucci and to honour the young winners of the Magnificat "Nikolaus de la Flüe" Piano Competition: Basel Awwad (student of Jiries Boullata), Fadi Sabat and Mohamad El Sheiq (both pupils of Emma Spitkovsky).

The tree pianists were accompanied throughout the tour by the teacher Emma Spitkovsky and the director of the Magnificat Fr. David Grenier.

The Associazione Amici del Magnificat, main sponsor of the piano competition, organized the event with the support of other institutions and organizations.



A thanksgiving mass, celebrated by Fr. Armando Pierucci on the day of his birthday, opened the celebrations. Concelebrating with him was Msgr. Peter Bürcher, bishop of Iceland, while the "San Bartolomeo" choir of Brugherio (Milan), conducted by Maestro Raffaele Deluca, sang Gregorian and polyphonic chants.

At the end of the Mass the choir Trikkis Melodoi performed chants of the Byzantine liturgy, including a hymn in honour of Father Armando, composed on the Byzantine melopea.

Msgr. Gossan Aljanian sang an invocation from the Armenian liturgy, accompanied on the organ by Fr. Armando Pierucci.

Afterwards, everyone was invited to the aperitif; the guests were entertained by the lovely music performed by violinists Alyona Afonichkina and Helga Oval, accompanied on piano by Maria Neishtadt of the Magnificat Institute.

The gala dinner in honour of Fr. Armando's birthday took place in the main hall of Villa Cagnola where toasts and speeches filled the air. Just before the cutting of the cake, the diners were invited to go out into the garden of the Villa for a surprise: beautiful fireworks lit the night and made the evening memorable.



On the day of September 4, 2015, all guests made the trip to Lugano: the young students of the Magnificat wanted to visit again the Alprose factory and chocolate museum in Caslano, and do some shopping in town. The Brigidine Sisters hosted the entire group for lunch. Soon after, while the other guests went on a boat ride on the Lake of Lugano, the pianists of the Magnificat returned to Villa Cagnola to rehearse their upcoming concert.

That evening, before the concert, a short film was screened: co-produced by the Magnificat Institute and the Associazione Amici del Magnificat, the film uses pictures and interviews to Fr. Armando and Hania Soudah Sabbara, to tell the story of the first 20 years of the Jerusalemite institution. Then, the three young pianists began playing two or four-hand compositions by Bach, Hummel, Mendelssohn, Chopin, showing the high level that characterizes the students of the Magnificat. The audience was amazed by so much talent, and did not stop applauding and congratulating the three musicians and the organizers.



The next day, on September 5, the three pianists, together with their parents, Prof. Spitkowsky, Fr. David Grenier, Véronique Nebel, Manuela Giacobone Negri and Fr. Armando Pierucci reached Venice, where they were welcomed on a boat made available free of charge by Mr. Luciano Baroni, president of the Veneziana Motoscafi. The guesthouse of the Waldensian Church housed in Palazzo Cavagnis, (the same place where the year before a performance took place by other students of the Magnificat and the Yasmeen Choir conducted by Hania Soudah Sabbara) was the venue of the evening concert of the three boys. While a violent storm raged outside, Basel, Fadi and Mohamad performed the musical program with great skill, applauded with great sympathy by the audience.

During a day of sunshine and pure blue skies (September 6, 2015), our group was joined by Professors Facchin and Boniolo of the Conservatory of Vicenza. After the mass in the great basilica of St. John and Paul (Zanipoli) and an excellent lunch in the area, the day was spent visiting the city of Venice.



Later in the day, Fr. Pierucci took leave to return in his beloved Marches: it was a sad farewell after such beautiful days. [VN]

The rest of the group returned to Villa Cagnola, from where, the next day, some visited the Holy Mount of Varese and the city centre before taking the plane back home from Malpensa airport in the early morning of September 7. We separated feeling more connected and friendlier than ever. [VN]

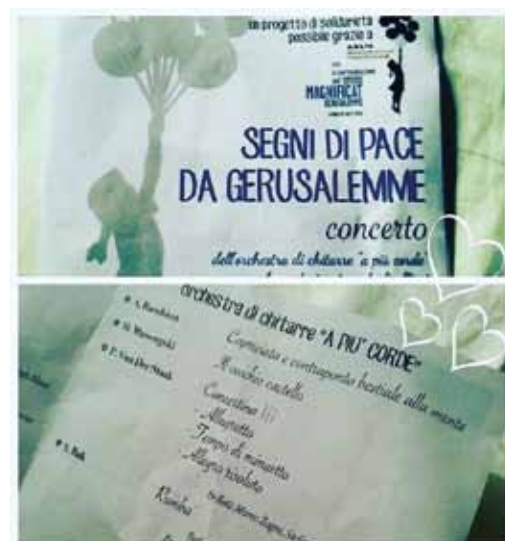
# The Guitars of the Magnificat in Veneto, Italy [Aug. 28/29/30, 2015]

"Signs of Peace from Jerusalem" is a series of concerts for guitar produced with the support of the Association ANITA.

Organized every year, the event sees the participation of guitar students of the Magnificat. This year the students chosen were: Maya Dabit, Serene Abddinour and George Alawi, accompanied by the teacher Yevgeny Markel.

The students of the Magnificat played with other young guitar students from Italy in three concerts held in Caneva and Polcenigo. Directing them was Maestro Laura Pizzutel.

Supported by the Veneto Region and the municipalities of Caneva and Polcenigo, this initiative allows the students of the Magnificat to learn new skills and meet other young musicians. In return they bring in Italy an example of peaceful coexistence between the different peoples of the Holy Land.



# The Pomarico Verdi Festival welcomes the Magnificat [Ott. 7/13, 2015]



20



Pomarico, a small town in the province of Matera, Italy, counting only 4000 souls, has the honor of being the hometown of the maternal grandfather of the composer Antonio Vivaldi. Therefore every year they host the Pomarico Vivaldi Festival.

Being "Music and Peace" the theme of this year's Festival, the organizers, led by President Mr Sergio Pizzilli, decided to invite the Magnificat. In fact, the school where Jews, Muslims and Christians of all denominations study and play together, is for them a clear example of how music can unite people beyond differences.

From October 8 to 13, a delegation of seven students, together with Professor Maria Neishtadt and the director of the Institute fr. David Grenier OFM, travelled to this beautiful mountain town in Southern Italy and filled its air with the music of Jerusalem.

Before performing two concerts on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11, our students, guitarist Berge Hagopian, violinists Rita Tawil, David Aslanian and Habib Sabbara and pianists Christine Batato, Justeen Kort and Emmanuel Mnatzaganian had the opportunity to meet other young students of the region; in schools and parishes, they answered questions and gave witness of their lives here in the Holy Land.

Worthy of mention is the generosity of Mrs. Gloria Asselta. Originally from Pomarico, Mrs. Asselta now lives in the States but nonetheless wanted to cover a number of expenses of our students in Italy. More, to thank the Magnificat of his involvement with the Festival, she offered a contribution in favor of the school.

So it was a first but very happy experience for the Magnificat at the Pomarico Vivaldi Festival.

## The Winners of the String Competition 2014

### VIOLIN

#### Cat. A

Marsel Saher > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Leen Mark Mina > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Qais Abu Zulof > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. B

William Obeid > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Salma Barakat > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
George Alawi > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. C

Berg Hagopian > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Dar Nissan, Johnny Antony > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Fouad Jabr, Tala Akkawi > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

### VIOLA

#### Cat. A

Nuha Kort, Remon Rafidi > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Ihab Khaldi, Yasmine Nassereldin > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. B

Zeina Jabr > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Narineh Kassabian > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. C

Grace Houry, Hanna Adi > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

### ENSEMBLE

#### Trio Awtar

Lamar Jalis Elias (Violin), Rand Houry (Cello)  
Johnny Antony (Guitar)

### VIOLIN

#### Cat. A

Lama Hallak > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Amir Nasrallah > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Ayman Ali, Maya Razzouk > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. B

Nadine Assali, Yousef Ali > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Lina Baranci, Sweem Tawil > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Dana Dabit > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. C

Majd Nasrawi, Tali Aisha Bourhis > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Ireen Kort, Faheem Houry > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Daniel Katanasho, Jabra Kort > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. D

Habib Sabbara, David Aslanian > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Rita Tawil > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Namir Ibrahim, Rani Ibrahim > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

### CELLO

#### Cat. A

Mustafa Alkurd, Ritaj Zboon > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Basel Khaldi > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Ayman Ali, Maya Razzouk > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. B

Jiries Rofa > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Daniel Razzouk, Siwar Baseer > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Dana Dabit > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. C

Aynour Tawil > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. D

Yasmeen Sabbara > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

#### Cat. A

Wassem Houry > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Rafi Sabat > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. B

Nathalie Rahman > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Nathalie Tabar > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Dana Assali > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. C

Fadi Sabat > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Basel Awwad > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Ekaterina Rofa, Clarita Tabri > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. D

Mohammed Al Sheikh > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Justeen Kort > 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Christine Batato, Jonathan Mnatzaganian > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Cat. E

Emmanuel Mnatzaganian > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

#### Cat. F

Annie Aslanian > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

#### Cat. H1

Fadi Sabat, Mohamad Al Sheikh > 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Joud Boullata, Salwa Taha > 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

#### Chopin Prize

Emmanuel Mnatzaganian

#### Compagnia di S. Giorgio Prize

Mohamad Al Sheikh

#### Austrian Hospice Prize

Basel Awwad



## The New Building > Looking into the Future



In this page we present a preview of the project for the new Magnificat that we hope to achieve soon.

The ever increasing number of students and the need to have adequate spaces -especially for the group classes like the orchestras and choirs- led the Custody of the Holy Land to seek an appropriate solution to the current needs of the school.

The recovery of premises near the convent of St. Saviour and the restoration of other areas, will create a new space for the Magnificat and a new large center for pilgrims.

The project is ready and the approval of the municipality is on the way: we have arrived at the fundraising stage. Soon we start the works, soon it will be possible to see realized the dreams of many friends and supporters of the Magnificat and of all of us who each day struggle a bit to find space for everyone and especially to balance schedules and classes in an orderly manner.

Every little contribution is welcome, in the final pages of this yearbook you will find various ways to help support this project and the Magnificat in general.

As of now, a big thank you !!!



## MUSIC BEYOND THE DIFFERENCES

Music is the art that unites beyond all differences, even the most difficult to overcome. At the Magnificat Institute in Jerusalem, students and teachers, Christians, Muslims and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, study, work and play together.

The musical activity of the Institute represents a sign of hope and a great opportunity for these children and their families living in the difficult political situation of Jerusalem, the disputed Holy City.

From the start, here at the Magnificat, we have claimed that music represents not only a social, cultural and recreational activity, but also a concrete possibility of employment. Up to now, all our graduates who have decided to pursue a musical career, have immediately found a job. Palestine is lacking of professionally trained music teachers: we are trying to train them.

The Magnificat is the music school of the Custody of the Holy Land, the Franciscan Friars who have been in the Middle East since 1200, establishing a great number of social activities for the benefit of the local population: the Magnificat is one of them.

The Institute follows the curriculum of the Italian Conservatories of Music: the "Arrigo Pedrollo" Conservatory in Vicenza (Italy) oversees the high quality standards of the Magnificat. A prestigious educational resource is the setting up of Academic courses recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, allowing our students to obtain diplomas valid in the European Union.

The other important activity of the Institute is to sing and to perform in the sanctuaries and churches of the Holy Land on the occasion of the great liturgical celebrations, specifically at the Holy Sepulchre and at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

## SUPPORT THE MUSIC IN JERUSALEM

Teaching is expensive: most of our costs are covered by the Custody of the Holy Land and other small and large donors. The Magnificat does not enjoy public funding and school fees cover only two months of activity. Some instruments are expensive and not very popular, so families are not ready to meet the costs and send their children to classes: we have to think about it.

Here are some ideas for your contributions:

1500 \$  
the monthly salary of a teacher

2500 \$  
a scholarship for a student

6500 \$  
to sponsor a festival/event

Musical instruments that we need  
(average prices, average quality)

trumpets: from 325\$  
clarinets: from 350\$  
flutes: from 400\$  
trombones: from 460\$  
horns in F or Bb: from 780\$  
oboes: from 1300\$  
bassoons: from 1300\$  
tuba: from 2000\$

violins: from 350\$  
violas: from 350\$  
cellos: from 550\$  
bass: from 650\$  
guitar: from 130\$  
piccolo: from 350\$  
alto sax: from 650\$



## “Want to Support the Magnificat?”

Here is How:

At the bank > with credit transfer made out to:  
Custodia di Terra Santa Instituto Magnificat  
Mercantile Discount Bank Ltd.  
Agron Str. Jerusalem. Israel  
BIC Code: BARDILTXXX  
Clearing Code: ILo17646  
IBAN: IL790176460000002096074

Online > <http://www.magnificat.custodia.org/en/support-us/donations/>  
By clicking on the Paypal button on the “support us” page of our website:  
or through the websites :  
The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington D.C.  
[www.myfranciscan.org](http://www.myfranciscan.org)  
The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land  
[www.ffhl.org](http://www.ffhl.org)



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