

Yaron Gottfried - Biography -

Conductor, composer and pianist Yaron Gottfried is one of the most prominent musicians of his generation in Israel, a multidisciplinary musician, who bridges classical, contemporary and jazz music. Gottfried held the position of music director and principal conductor of the Netanya-Kibbutz Orchestra between 2002 and 2013. Under his creative artistic leadership, the orchestra has become one of Israel's leading professional orchestras, presenting fresh revolutionary programs, packed halls, rave reviews and over 120 concerts in a season.

Gottfried studied composition with Noam Sheriff and graduated from the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem under Maestro Mendi Rodan. In July 2013 he was appointed head of the new composition and conducting department at Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music.

Gottfried is regularly invited to conduct and perform his works with major orchestras including Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion, Haifa Symphony, Jerusalem Symphony, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Israel Sinfonietta Beer-Sheva, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Beijing Symphony, Neues Kammerorchester Potsdam, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Thüringer Symphoniker, Budapest Concert Orchestra, Duna Symphony, Kodaly Philharmonic and Vancouver Symphony among many others. Since September 2013 he has been music director of two new contemporary concert series at Tel Aviv Museum of Art and Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music.

Gottfried's unique approach to rhythm and sound is deeply reflected in his compositions, which bring together a fusion between genres and styles. Among his works are concertos, orchestral works, vocal works and orchestral arrangements. His jazz arrangements of works by Warlock, Bach and Mozart written for jazz trio and orchestra have been performed over 50 times receiving excellent reviews all over the world with many orchestras.

He received composition commissions from orchestras, artists and festivals such as Neues Kammerorchester Potsdam, Forbidden City Concert Hall, Jerusalem Symphony, Ladino singer Yasmin Levy, Red Sea Chamber Music Festival, Israel Festival and Maayan Chorus among many others.

The Israel Cultural Excellence Foundation selected Maestro Gottfried as its chosen artist for 2003-2006. He is a member of the prestigious MacDowell Colony in the USA and first prize winner of the young conductors competition held by the Israel Philharmonic and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and first prize winner of the Red Sea Jazz Festival composition competition. Gottfried's interest in jazz led him to perform with major jazz artists such as Eddie Daniels, Eddie Gomez, Didier Lockwood, Dave Liebman, Ira Sullivan, Randy Brecker, Georgie Fame, Benny Golson and Jimmy Heath, to name a few.