



Jezreel Valley  
Regional Council

Center for the Arts  
Jezreel Valley

## The Multicultural “Shani” Girls’ Choir Jezreel Valley Center for the Arts

**The singers of the “Shani” Girls’ Choir**, aged 13-18 are Jewish and Arab, Christian and Muslim from the towns and villages of the Central Galilee and Jezreel Valley. The girls rehearse twice a week at the Jezreel Valley Center for the Arts under the baton of Ms. Pnina Inbar, and they perform frequently in schools, at cultural events and at regional, national and international music conferences.

The choir’s repertoire features classical music, folk songs in original classical arrangements, as well as songs in Hebrew and Arabic which, in large part, were arranged especially for the “Shani” choir. In the autumn of 2006 the choir performed in Köln, Germany in multi-cultural musical events that were widely publicized. In March of 2007 the “Shani” went on a concert tour of Italy, the success of which led to an invitation to perform at a Papal Audience the following August in the presence of the venerable Pope Benedict XVI.

The choir is frequently invited to perform at ceremonies through the country, most recently at the Israel Goldblum Award Ceremony at the president’s residence, in the presence of President Shimon Peres, Chief Justice Dorit Beinisch and the Minister for Education, Yuli Tamir.

In February 2008 the choir performed a concert at the Mormon Church before an audience that braved a Jerusalem snowstorm to attend it.

The following April the choir performed in Turin, Italy, during the local Jewish Community’s celebrations of Israel’s 60th anniversary. In May 2008 the choir was invited to perform at the prestigious “Dan David” awards ceremony. Among the award recipients that year was former U.S. Vice President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore and Israeli author Amos Oz. In November 2008 the choir sang a well-received concert at the residence of the Ambassador of the United States in Israel.



### **Pnina Inbar, Conductress of the “Shani” Girls Choir**

Born in Poland, Ms. Pnina Inbar is a member of Kibbutz Ein Hashofet. She studied voice with Lola Schnitzer, has sung in numerous choirs and appeared as a soloist with various orchestras and chamber ensembles. In 1989 she formed the “Naama” Women’s Choir and in 1995 the “Megiddo” Choir. In 2003, Ms. Inbar began conducting the “Shani” Jewish-Arab Girls’ Choir of the Jezreel Valley Music Center. In addition to conducting, Ms. Inbar engages in teaching voice and in composing and producing widely acclaimed musical and vocal arrangements.



# The "Shani girls" choir

## Words that were written about us

### ***The Holy Father Was Moved***

***Written by Yossi Bar Rome, August 2007***

The "Shani" Choir from Israel, whose singers are Jewish and Arab, Christian and Muslim, made history at the Vatican.

The Holy Father Pope Benedictus XVI listened intently to the choir's singing and later told Mr Uri ben David, the director of Musical Projects Jezreel Valley, "I hope the culture events such as these will provide the background for furthering peace in the region."

The choir presented his Holy Father with a gift, a stone from Nazareth inscribed with the text from Isaiah:

ישעיהו י"ב - הנה אל ישועתי אבטח, ונא אפחד: כי-עזי וזמרת יְהוָה, ויהי לי ליִשׁוּעָה.  
ג וּשְׂאֵבָתָם-מִיָּם, בְּשִׁשׁוֹן, מִמַּעֲיָי, הִישׁוּעָה. (Isaia 12 (La Nuova Diodati)

Ecco, Dio è la mia salvezza; io avrò fiducia e non avrò paura, perché l'Eterno, sí, l'Eterno è la mia forza e il mio cantico, ed è la mia salvezza». Voi attingerete con gioia l'acqua dalle fonti della salvezza.

***Nov. 26, 2008***

***Greer Fay Cashman , THE JERUSALEM POST***

Among the Foundation's activities are the Daniel Pearl Music Days. The 18-member "Shani" Girls Choir, founded and conducted by Pnina Inbar, is made up of girls aged 13-18 who attend the Jezreel Valley Center for the Arts. Their voices are angelic, and in the words of Ruth and Judea Pearl, "their combined voices resonate in sharp defiance of the forces of division and hostility that took Danny's life, and will reinforce our unshaken conviction that at the end of the day, humanity will triumph and harmony will prevail."

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### ***Our Peace***

***Roni Rotem an 18 year old former singer in the Shani Jewish-Arab Girls Choir - Presently serving in the Israeli Defense Forces.***

We, girls of the Shani Choir share an outstanding chance of experiencing True Peace. Our foremost contact is our love for Music. Through music we learn to know one another, to open our hearts and be true friends who listen and

share our mutual feelings and deliberations.

Between us we share two Languages and three Faiths. For us, this is so natural and obvious, that cooperation, understanding and trust are achievable through open and honest conversation, free of Prejudice, Boundaries and Road Blocks.

This is our Peace ,Extremely possible and tangible. .

This is the message we project to our surroundings and the message we will carry on to our children in the future.

### ***Singing - From Heart to Heart***

***Noam Ben Zeev, "Haaretz" Israel,***

***May 18, 2008***

"There's a Place for us" are the words of "Somewhere" in Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story" - a place with Peace and quiet and open air, with Time to learn Time to Care, Hold my hand and we're half way there ... Some-how, some-way, Some- where . . .

Already at the opening of the Encore, when Maria Jubran, Soloist of the Shani. Arab-Jewish Girls Choir, opened with the first notes of the song in her exquisite voice, tears came up in our eyes and many could not control themselves from weeping openly. Why does such a turmoil take place in a seemingly regular musical performance ?

The answer to that, is probably in the deep extraordinary connection these Girls feel for all the music they sing.

There is no other Choir in the world - that can present a program like that, a program that so clearly symbolizes the mere essence of living in this country, in the Valley of Yizrael, with the outstanding mix of Cultures, Faiths and Musics - searching to become united in just being Israeli.

