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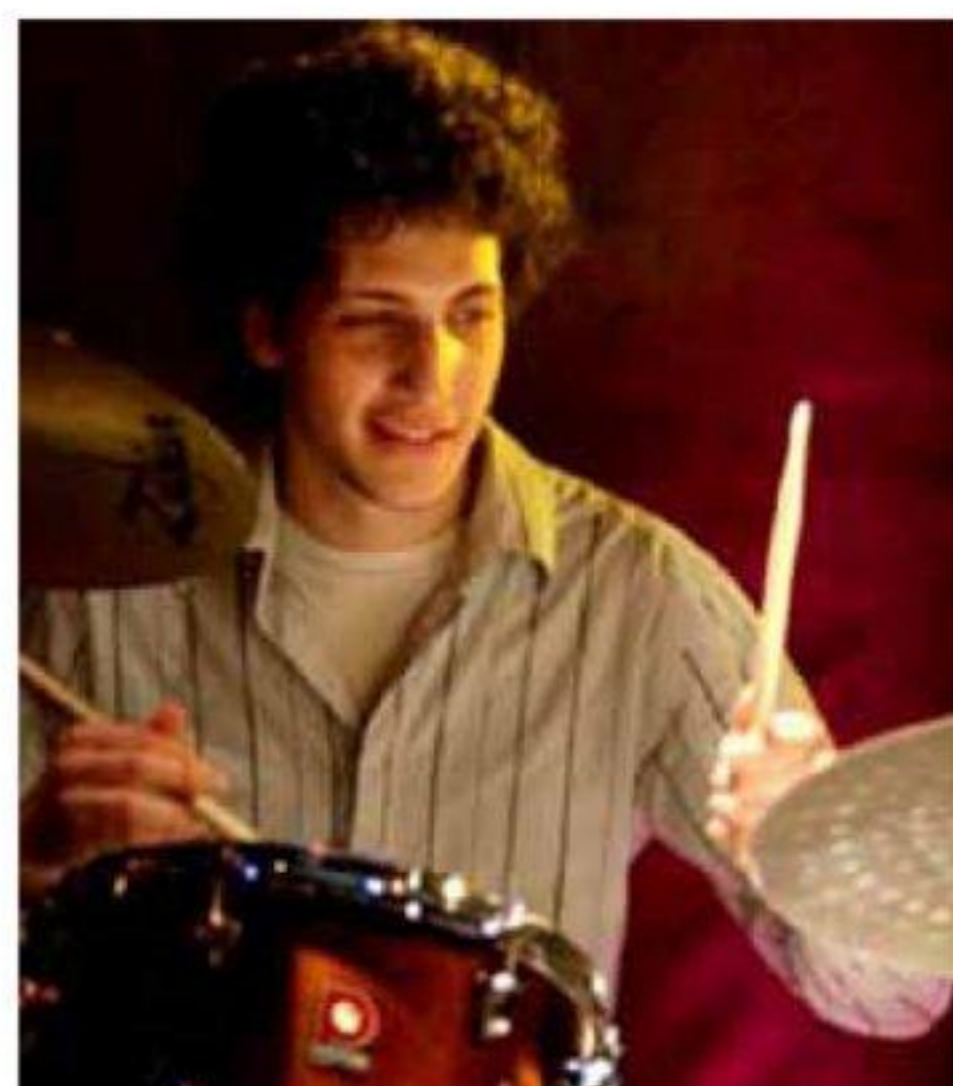
FEATURES AND LOCAL NEWS

Israel's Shimon Ben-Shir Group At Hevreh, October 16 Overcoming All the Evil in the World

By David Verzi



Bassist Shimon Ben-Shir



Dani Danor on drums

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, Israel's Shimon Ben-Shir Group will perform in concert at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington.

Presented by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and co-sponsored by Hevreh and Congregation Ahavath Sholom, celebrated bassist Ben-Shir will lead his ensemble - including flutist Amir Milstein, pianist Eyran Katsenelenbogen, saxophonist Diane Wernick, and drummer Dani Danor - in a carnival of vivid jazz colors meant to appeal to the committed aficionado as well as the casual fan.

Reservations, at \$5, are available at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.

Engaging and enchanting, while the Ben-Shir Group's repertoire is solidly

rooted in the spicy rhythms of the Middle East, it easily branches to yield overtones of the dulcet melodic flowers of the Caribbean - leading critics to note Ben-Shir's sound as an innocent, psyche-touching, mood setting musical motif that leaves the listener in a mind to overcome all the evil in the world.

With their first album "Shades," Ben Shir initially brought his group to recording in 2002, with the ensemble continuing to win favorable reviews with their latest CD "Encounters," which has been noted in the press as: "first class 'sitting down' jazz that doesn't always take you where you expect it to but knows what to do to get you there."

SHIMON BEN-SHIR,
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SHIMON BEN-SHIR, *continued from page 1*

Composer, producer and music educator, in the early '90s Ben-Shir began to develop and grow as a professional bass player, coming to Boston to attend the jazz program at the Berklee College of Music.

Graduating from Berklee, Ben-Shir, then a member of the "What's New Jazz Ensemble," immersed himself in the New England music scene as both musician and composer - soon playing in a wide range of bands covering diverse musical genres, including big band, blues, rock, pop, and jazz.

An educator at the John Payne Music Center in Brookline, MA, Ben-Shir remains a student as well - assaying the boundaries of the bass with noted instructors Oscar Stagnaros, Bruce Gertz, and Charlie Banacus.

Flutist Milstein has established his career on the music scene by performing and recording with noted ensembles worldwide.

With his musical background in tune with a variety of styles and cultures - including classical, Mediterranean, Balkan, Latin, and jazz - Milstein has collaborated with such diverse international artists as Zakir Hussein, Tito Puente, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ross Daly, Omar Farouk Tekbilek, Armandinho Macedo, and Mikhailis Nikoloudis, as well as with several of Israel's celebrated choreographers.

In addition, conducting at distinguished concert venues and festivals around the world, Milstein has appeared on several music programs on Israeli television and recorded over thirty albums with Israel's leading artists, including: Matti Caspi, Shlomo Gronich, Gidi Gov, Leah Shabbat, and Miki Gavrielov.

A faculty member at Hed College of Contemporary Music

in Israel and the New England Conservatory, Milstein has developed a music-education program for The Karev Educational Foundation and currently presents workshops and clinics at schools, colleges, and universities across the United States and in Israel.

A classically trained master pianist with a unique jazz style, Katsenelenbogen, with ten albums to his individual credit, has entertained audiences in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

Hailed as a "phenomenal musician," Katsenelenbogen has performed in live concerts and on radio and television throughout the world. Recent appearances include: Saint Joseph Theater, Scarborough, United Kingdom; Bechstein Centrum, Hamburg, Germany; Teatro di Marcelllo, Rome, Italy; and the Scullers Jazz Club and Steinert Hall in Boston.

Katsenelenbogen, the winner of seven ASCAP Plus Awards, has also been named to the Massachusetts Cultural Council Performing and Touring Roster which was established by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Holding teaching positions with the New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory School and Boston's School of Continuing Education, Katsenelenbogen has pioneered innovative techniques for teaching contemporary music performance to students with special abilities and diverse needs.

Related to Felix Mendelssohn, Katsenelenbogen was first taught by Aida Barenboim, mother and teacher of famed pianist-conductor Daniel Barenboim, and went on to complete his music education at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Wernick received her B.A. in Jazz Education from North Texas State University and her M.A. in Music Performance from



Flutist Amir Milstein



Saxophonist Diane Wernick

Northern Illinois University.

Comfortable working within a variety of musical settings, including swing big bands, sax quartets, woodwind ensembles, and jazz combos, Wernick, the director of the Middle School Jazz Band at Buckingham Browne & Nichols in Cambridge, boasts twenty years of teaching experience, including the instruction of clarinet, flute, and saxophone for the John Payne Saxophone Choir at Berklee College.

An accomplished jazz drummer, Danor, in Israel, has performed with various jazz groups at major venues across the country, including the Shablul Jazz Club, Milestone, and the Yellow Submarine, as well as at the International Red Sea Jazz festival.

Currently a Eubie Blake Scholar completing his bachelor's degree in jazz studies at the New England Conservatory of Music, Danor has been study-



Pianist Eyran Katsenelenbogen

ing with world-renowned jazz musicians including Billy Hart, Bob Moses, Cecil McBee, Jerry Leake, and Frank Carlberg.

The Shimon Ben-Shir Group's program is provided with funds from the Federation's Annual Campaign.