



AMERICA ISRAEL
CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The America-Israel Cultural Foundation has nurtured and promoted Israeli culture and artistic life over the past eight decades.

AICF is the leading organization in Israel for supporting outstanding young artists through grants, competitions, enrichment programs and more.

18,000 musicians, actors, dancers, choreographers, and visual artists have benefited from AICF's financial support through grants and awards.

Over 400 grants are awarded annually to exciting young artists.

History of AICF

The America-Israel Cultural Foundation was founded in 1939 by the Jewish-American philanthropist Edward Norman. In its distinguished history, AICF has supported over 600 cultural institutions throughout Israel: theaters, orchestras, choirs, dance companies, and museums, including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Israel Museum, the Tel-Aviv Museum of Art and the Batsheva Dance Company. AICF has contributed to the building of many cultural venues such as Habima National Theater, Heichal HaTarbut (Charles Bronfman Auditorium) and others. In addition, AICF has donated several art pieces to museums.

The legendary late violinist Isaac Stern and his late widow Vera were the living spirit of AICF for many years, proudly serving as the organization's chairpersons.

The Foundation's Work

The Sharett Grants Program for Creative Excellence

AICF's flagship initiative is the Sharett Grants Program for Creative Excellence. Its purpose is to discover and nurture exceptional young artists from all over Israel in the fields of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and design. The Foundation identifies the most promising talents in each field through a series of exams. It awards them grants which enable them to study with top teachers and institutions, giving them the opportunity to realize their full artistic potential.

AICF grant recipients are the pillar of Israel's cultural and artistic life. Many accomplished Israeli artists and heads of Israeli cultural institutions have received support from the Foundation. Among them are: Daniel Barenboim, Miriam Fried, Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, and Chen Reiss in **Classical Music**; David Broza, Eli Degibri, and Anat Cohen in **Jazz**; Anat Waxman, Itay Tiran, and Rita Yahan-Farouz in **Theatre**; Menashe Kadishman, Sigalit Landau, and Michal Rovner in **Visual Art**; Tomer Heymann, Talya Lavie, and Renen Schorr in **Film**; Ron Gilad, Rutu Modan, and Adi Stern in **Design**; Sharon Eyal, Rami Beer, and Ohad Naharin in **Dance**.

Competitions, Enrichment Programs and Early Career Support

AICF initiates and operates the **Aviv Competitions**, the most prestigious competitions for young Israeli musicians. This platform allows AICF to support promising young musicians at the start of their careers through cash prizes, performance opportunities, and exposure to audiences and the professional music field.

AICF's **Enrichment Programs** for current and past grant recipients aim to enhance their skills, artistic development, and experience.

AICF provides other **early-career support** through assistance in purchasing equipment, funding for international travel, and more.

Instrument Loans

Throughout its eight decades, AICF has acquired an impressive collection of string instruments, thanks to donations from Israel and abroad, as well as independent acquisitions. AICF lends its instruments to musicians in need, giving them the opportunity to practice, perform, and audition on high-quality instruments - a critical component to artistic development and the start of a career in music.

Board of Directors

Officers: **Scott Mortman**, Chair; **Kristina Reiko Cooper**, Vice Chair, Revital Gal, Nitza Genosar, Ora Holin, Liora Kvoras-Hadar, Yossi Levy, Esq., Ricki Lieberman, Vivian Rakib, William A. Schwartz, Ora Stibbe, Joshua-Marc Tanenbaum
Iris Reff Ronen, Executive Director

Almost all of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra musicians who were born and raised in Israel are past grant recipients.

Over 60% of the Batsheva Dance Company dancers are past grant recipients.

AICF is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are recognized for tax purposes under section 46A of the Income Tax Ordinance.

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