



INTERNAL COMPASS MUSIC

Matanel Foundation Activity Report 2024

No. of Active Participants- About 100 | No. of Impacted participants- About 9,000

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State of the Program

The past year has been the most difficult and challenging year we have experienced, following the October 7th attack and the subsequent Iron Swords War. Our reality changed in a single day: students and staff were called up for reserve duty, many evacuees relocated to Mitzpe Ramon, and the school had to adapt to the new circumstances. In the first two months, we held open activities for the public and the students alike. The school officially reopened on December 23, delayed like all other academic institutions in Israel. We are proud of completing the last school year, despite all the difficulties. It was a year that began with unthinkable tragedy and ended with a successful closing festival and graduation ceremony for the school's sixth graduating class.

Main Achievements

During the year 2023-2024, despite the horrible events of October 7th and the Iron Swords war, the contribution of the Matanel Foundation allowed the 'Matanel' Creative Music Program in Mitzpe Ramon to develop significantly in several different dimensions:

1. The very act of opening the school in December and operating it normally throughout the year, alongside open activities for the public (classes, workshops, and concerts) and creating a stable cultural center for students, the public, and evacuees in a reality of war and reserve duty, marks a special milestone for us. It demonstrates our organization's ability to face difficult challenges and remain stable under unstable circumstances. Videos of end of the year concert is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/@internalcompassmusic>.
2. 10 wonderful students have finished their 3-year of study at the school. We had a respectful musical ceremony in honor of their efforts and achievements. Among our graduates were 2 international students – Jonas Luminas (Guitar) and Teo Weisberg (Violin).
3. After 8 years of activity in the community's music center, in June 2024 we launched a renovation and equipment upgrade project for the building. The rooms were acoustically treated, equipment was purchased, and the center underwent a significant upgrade in preparation for the 2024/25 school-year.

4. The Mitzpe Ramon Jazz club is celebrating two years since its reopening by the Me'ever Arts Center. The club hosted about 150 events in the past year. In June 2024 Fermatta & Coda festival, a festival that is operated by the students, filled the club with people, culture, and music. Every night the club hosted two student recitals.

5. Spotlight on graduates –

Keren Ettinger – Keren is a singer-songwriter and guitarist. In the last three years she has developed her writing skills and her guitar playing skills and managed to write and produce her debut album. We are predicting a bright musical future for her.



Moshiko Ashkenazi – Moshiko is a talented double-bass player. In the past three years he has delved deeply into the worlds of jazz and blues, playing in various ensembles. We foresee a successful future for Moshiko as an international musician – composer, sessionist and band leader.

Evaluation

Since the addition of private lessons as a core element of study (thanks to Matanel's generous support), we've now introduced performance juries at the end of each semester. Students are required to prepare two pieces of music (one classical, one jazz) and present it in front of designated faculty members. The students receive written feedback, and the faculty is able to track their progress more accurately. This allows for a consistent evaluation system both for the students themselves and the program. The students' performance level improved noticeably after only one year of implementation.

Moving Forward

Matanel's support has helped our school achieve accreditation from the Ministry of Culture and maintain the highest level music education. We'd like to spread this success outside the walls of the school. In 2022, Me'ever Arts & Creativity Center began a project called the "Cultural and Musical Eco-System in Mitzpe Ramon." The purpose of the project is to put Mitzpe Ramon on the map as an international musical hub. In the years to come, we want to see the school's students and alumni taking key positions in the Eco-System project and having an influence on the Negev music scene as a whole. Furthermore, we believe this is the first step in our students and alumni finding their place in the music scene both in Israel and abroad. In its pilot year, 3rd year students and alumni from previous years made an incredible impact on the cultural field in Mitzpe Ramon by initiating a local radio station, taking positions as music teachers in the local conservatory, and performing. This past year even more alumni remained in Mitzpe, some creating youth programs, others leading and playing in the community orchestras (all of which exist in collaboration with the school). We would like to encourage this natural growth by creating a designated scholarship fund designed specifically for alumni to help them transition into professionals and remain a part of the Eco-System.



'Matanel' Creative Music Program
6th year graduates. June 2024. Left
to right: Moshiko Ashkenazi, Noy
Elitzur, Hagar Malca, Teo
Wiesberg, Ido Kilemnik, Keren
Ettinger, Eyal Bostok, Noa
Michaeli, Yonas Luminas

Thank you!

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