



The 19th Felicja Blumental International Music Festival May 15th to 20th 2017, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art

The 2017 Felicja Blumental Music Festival will open with the first ever screening of the documentary “Vissi d’arte. I Live for Art”, presenting the story of Annette Celine, founder of the festival and daughter of the great pianist Felicja Blumental.

Also in the festival, a play inspired by Nobel Literary Prize laureate Wisława Szymborska, the La Ritirata Ensemble (Spain) in a unique event bringing together Antonio Caldara operas and texts of Cervantes; also, international Israeli artists pianist Einav Yarden and flautist Tamar Lalo, the Greek viola da gamba player Elektra Miliadou with the Mezzo Ensemble, the Gilad Ephrat Ensemble with Yirmi Kaplan, as well as a host of guests from Israel and abroad in a program that is both multi-disciplinary and varied.

In its 19th year, the Felicja Blumental Music Festival is in full swing, presenting works from the Middle Ages and Baroque alongside Irish-, Gypsy- and Ladino music, also contemporary works by Israeli composers and by pioneering figures of modern music. There will also be lectures on the plastic arts and documentary films.

Artistic Director: Annette Celine . General director: Avigail Arnheim.

The festival will open with the premiere screening of the documentary film “I Live for Art” (director: **Asaf Galay**), presenting the story of creative musician **Annette Celine**, founder and director of the Felicja Blumental Festival, who established the festival in memory of her mother pianist **Felicja Blumental**. The festival will also include a theatre production inspired by Nobel Literary Prize laureate **Wisława Szymborska** and directed by **Noam Ben Azar**.

On the of “Home Visit” theme, international prizewinning Israeli pianist **Einav Yarden**, together with ‘cellist **Zvi Plessner**, will perform “Beethoven the Universal and Wandering Jews”. Another “home visit” will be that of Israeli **Tamar Lalo** performing with the Spanish ensemble

“La Ritirata” in a significant and fascinating project of music from Antonio Caldara’s operas, written when Caldara was composer-in-

residence in Vienna and based on texts of Cervantes, whom he had met



when living in Spain. Greek viola da gamba player **Elektra Miliadou** will join the **Mezzo Ensemble**; together with Baroque flautist **Dimitris Kountouras**, they will perform music from the Renaissance and Middle Ages, which will include dances and folk songs. An unusual artistic event, indeed, a festival centrepiece, will be the “**Tederim**” (Frequency) **Project** with the **Meitar Ensemble** – the 2017 version of the “**In Freundschaft**” (With Friendship) musical game. Fifteen composers from around the world have written short works for project members, these pieces joining to form one multi-movement work; director: **Moshe Aharonov**.

Other intriguing events taking place in the festival will be the **Swing de Gitanes Trio** hosting Spanish composer/ guitarist **Stephane Wrembel**. Wrembel composed the theme tune to Woody Allen’s film “Midnight in Paris” and is considered one of the leading voices of today’s guitarists. **Marcin Dylla** (Poland), referred to in the Washington Post as “one of the world’s most talented guitarists”, will perform an extraordinary recital. And in a local production with an overseas flavour, the **Gilad Ophrat Ensemble** will present “Big Country”. In the event hosting **Yirmi Kaplan, Aramat Arnheim** and **Shmulik Shamir**, the ensemble will offer a tribute to poet and composer **Stephen Foster**, the “father of American music”.

This year, the Jerusalem wind orchestra “**Marsh Dondurma**”, known for its spectacular street performances, will take to centre stage in a concert for families and children.

“**MultiPiano**”, the piano ensemble that has thrilled audiences in former festivals, returns this year in a wide-ranging collaboration with the **Tremolo Percussion School** for a concert of full-on energy performed by four pianists and five percussionists.

Festival guests include the **Cologne Guitar Quartet** (Germany), **Stephen Connolly** (The King’s Singers), the **Israeli Vocal Ensemble**, the **Moran Soloists**, the **Mezzo Ensemble**, **Ensemble Meitar**, the **Tempra Ensemble**, the **Gilad Ophrat Ensemble**, **MultiPiano** and **MultiPercussion**, **Swing de Gitanes** and more.

www.blumentalfestival.com

