

"A Beacon of Hope for our Communities"

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the ENSEMBLE

**POLYPHONY
FOUNDATION**
polyphonyfoundation.org

The eNewsletter from Polyphony Foundation

July 2016

UPCOMING CONCERTS



July 29, 2016

Castelluccio, Tuscany, Italy

[Cultural Encounters in
Southern Tuscany](#)



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**MEET
CARRIE SACKETT**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to "The Ensemble," the monthly newsletter of Polyphony. We invite you to connect regularly with the beautiful music our young people are making—onstage and off—in communities across Israel.

With the events of last week in the U.S. and Israel, we are reminded that the world is desperately in need of new approaches for civil discourse and building community.

Our discovery at [Polyphony](#) is that the activity of making, sharing and appreciating classical music brings Arab and Jewish youth together in new ways. They discover similarities and begin to see new possibilities for living together. We call it common ground through common sound. It is becoming a model for social transformation.



The Polyphony Foundation Board of Directors has hired Carrie Sackett to serve as its Executive Director. Carrie has two decades of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector and has raised tens of millions of dollars for innovative, international youth development organizations.

Carrie began her role in May and immediately travelled to Nazareth, Israel for five days to meet with Polyphony Education founder and Executive Director Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, his team and the young people, gaining on-the-ground experience with our programs.

“This organization is a beacon of hope in unpredictable times. Polyphony’s youth programs are of the highest quality. And it has been quite moving to meet so many wonderful people committed to Polyphony’s mission. I look forward to partnering with our supporters to grow Polyphony’s impact in the years to come,” shared Carrie.

The goal of this newsletter is to share and show you the ways your support is making a very meaningful difference. Thank you for everything you give to help create hope for our young people and inspire a more civil and united society in Israel.

שלכם ושלכן תחייתי
Warmly
Carrie Sackett
Executive Director
Polyphony Foundation



Polyphony Foundation Executive Director Carrie Sackett is second from the right. She is with (L-R) Lilach Sa’ad, Administrative Director; Ghada Khoury, Program Coordinator; Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, Founder and Executive Director of Polyphony Education; Olfat Haddad, Nazareth Conservatory Secretary.



11,000 CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN POLYPHONY'S ALHAN PROGRAM

Our Alhan program provides weekly in-school music appreciation sessions led by Arab and Jewish teachers who have trained

together in Polyphony's unique pedagogical approach.

Through engaging with classical music, the children (and the teachers!) develop their listening skills and create physical movements expressive of the rhythm and emotionality of the pieces.

This year, 11,000 Arab and Jewish kindergarteners and elementary school children completed the program by attending Explained Concerts performed by the full Polyphony Galilee Orchestra. The 23 concerts took place in packed auditoriums across Israel.

On May 30, 450 Arab kindergarteners participated in an Explained Concert at Kibbutz Mizra'a. For most it was their first experience on a bus, entering a kibbutz, being in an auditorium and seeing and moving to a live, full orchestral classical music concert.

"Polyphony is an asset to our society. This was a wonderful paradigm shift. You exposed our children to new social and cultural experiences," wrote music instructor Noreen Shamiyeh afterwards.

"Giving these concerts is the highlight of my week," remarked Dudi Sofer, who comes from Tel Aviv to conduct the orchestra. "The kids are so excited to perform their movements as we play. It's a joyous experience for everyone."

[Watch our 30-second Alhan video](#)

CONCERT AS COMMUNITY

"Music can bring together people who do not normally come together," remarked Polyphony Founder Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar.

On June 11, 200 Arab and Jewish Israelis attended a concert by Saleem Ashkar, a world renowned classical pianist, at Industrial Park in his hometown of Nazareth. The performance was part of Saleem's tour of Israel performing the full 14-hour Beethoven

Sonata cycle, which only a half dozen pianists in the world can accomplish.

Fifty Alhan students and teachers attended from three different schools and were invited to ask Saleem questions following the concert. Polyphony conservatory students, parents and Israeli donors attended as well.

The program included two flute solo pieces performed by Polyphony Conservatory graduate Mais Hriesh. A young Arab woman currently studying human rights and music at Bard College in New York, Mais says of her experience with Polyphony, "It strengthens the sense of belonging for my community. When you're on stage, it's just you and the other musicians. We stop thinking about backgrounds. This sense of equality that you deliver to your audience, it makes you feel that you belong and that you can do something."

D O N A T E



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