

# Music

## *Ma'alín Bakodesh*

Eli W. Schlossberg

### Torah and music to serve Hashem

The *Shirah* at the aftermath of the splitting of the Red Sea, the many musical *klei kodesh* used in the Beis Hamikdash, the songs the Levi'im sang, Dovid Hamelech's *Tehillim* and *Shir Hashirim*, all show us the importance of music in our Torah lives. Our respective *davening nuscha'os*, and our beautiful, melodious *tefillos*, represent our beautiful *avodah* to Hashem. Every Yom Tov has its own specific *niggunim*. Starting from the famous world-class *chazzanim* and moving to Shlomo Carlebach, Rabbi Michel Twersky, Boruch Chait, Yisroel Lamm...to Mordechai Ben David, Yossi Green, Avraham Fried, and all who have followed – theirs are the songs that are sung by Klal Yisrael today. All these talented musicians were given the *bracha* of music and have brought much *simcha* to all.

**“Music takes us from where we are to where we want to be.”** –*Shlomo Carlebach*.

What a true statement it is! Music creates joy and *simcha* and can change one's state of mind. In *tefillah*, music often elevates one's *kavanah* to bring him closer to Hashem.

### Classical music

I was born into a musical family. I vividly remember how my mother, upon hearing a live performance of one of the finest tenors in the world – Lucciano Pavorotti – said *Baruch osei Maaseh Bereishis!* She realized that his voice and talent were a special gift from Hashem.

My parents had a European Bechstein piano. One day I received a call from Rabbi Dovid Lipson. He was looking for a piano in order to rehearse his music for an upcoming concert. I offered him the piano in my parents' home, and when my mother heard his incredible talent, she probably once again said a *bracha*. His skill and talent were truly extraordinary.

### A rosh kollel and masterful concert pianist

Rabbi Dovid Lipson is the *rosh kollel* of a high-caliber *kollel* in Eretz Yisrael, Kollel Aliyos Shlomo (named after Har-

av Shlomo Freifeld, his *rebbe*). The *kollel* is an exceptional bastion of Torah learning at the highest level. Rabbi Lipson was given the *bracha* of becoming a great *talmid chacham* and Torah scholar, as well as a uniquely talented concert pianist of classical music. As a concert pianist, he performs in what appears to be long black tails, but what is actually a black *kapoteh*! When he sways with powerful intensity he isn't *shokeling* but moving to the powerful feelings of the music score and his incredible interpretation of the beautiful music he skillfully plays.

When was the last time you experienced a noted *talmid chacham*/devoted *rosh kollel* play a concert of Brahms, Beethoven, or Mozart? He does this to help support his incredible *kollel*. The musical presentation, usually taking place in private homes, is the quality of a concert at the Met. He takes this beautiful classical music to new heights of Ma'alín Bakodesh. He has performed for audiences in Baltimore, Monsey, New York, Miami, Detroit, and Los Angeles, often accompanied by strings (violin and cello), in a harmonious symphony of musical beauty. His audiences are amazed by his talent and the beauty of his music. An unusual sight to see a *rosh kollel* as a maestro!

This is something Lakewood has yet to see. Performing now in Lakewood for the benefit of his *kollel*, Rabbi Lipson brings his incredible talent, truly a gift from Hashem, to the Torah community of Lakewood. Experience the beauty, dynamic skill, and intensity of his musical talents – a wondrous *kiddush Hashem*.

What a beautiful way to spend a Sunday evening – and 100% glatt kosher!

Let Rabbi Lipson's music take you *from where you are to where you want to be!*

*Eli W. Schlossberg is an Orthodox Baltimore native, a businessman and a talented musician who has authored two books: The World of Orthodox Judaism and the just-released My Shtetl Baltimore. He is a regular contributor of the Baltimore Orthodox paper, the Where What When.* ●