

Composer of the year

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Avner Dorman, a young composer of 27, has made his mark in the Israeli contemporary music scene, here and now. He is the most original, unique and of the highest quality of all the composers performed by Israeli orchestras in the past season.

Dorman is a contemporary Israeli composer that grew up in a musical household (his father is the principal bassoon player of the Philharmonic and a conductor) and was enchanted by the widest array of music, both commercial and popular as well as classical. His pieces today are the essence of his own statement, while they continue to incorporate various influences of today's world. Influences in his music come more as aesthetic models than as quotations, but the spirit of Eastern European composers such as Bartók, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Kancheli and Bardanashvili floats in his music. Like the Beatles, Dorman also drips into his pieces motives from the world of Rock, and that produces masterpieces.

From the outset of the twentieth century, composers have been dealing with the problem of the communicative disconnect with their audiences. Those who use a language that reaches the audiences' hearts, like that of Brahms and Stravinsky, communicate. Avner Dorman is one of them. He sets aside the old 'middle-eastern' style [a common style of composition among older generation Israeli composers] and creates a fresh genre, with a young mindset and the highest quality.

As a child, Dorman played the cello. He wanted drums, but his father, the musician, said it would be better to play the piano. He formed his own band, where he played piano and synthesizers, that performed a combination of popular and serious music.

Among other prizes and scholarships, he has received scholarships from the American Israeli Cultural Foundation, the Rabinovich Tel-Aviv fund, and from Tel-Aviv University. He has won the ACUM prize in 2001 and the Prime Minister's Prize in the same year. This past summer, he was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in Boston.