

## **Dorman expresses joie de vivre**

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The Prime Minister's Award for Composers was granted this year to five laureates - Haim Alexander, Moshe Gassner, Menahem Zur, Betty Olivero and Avner Dorman. They were feted in a ceremony-concert where a work by each of them was performed.

The choice of grantees reflected the remarkable diversity of contemporary Israeli music. All the works performed differed significantly from each other in style, atmosphere, character and form, making the selection a miniature kaleidoscope of the local music scene.

Senior composer Alexander's *If I Forget Thee, O Jerusalem* for piano (1947, played by David Dolan) sounds amazingly modernist given its date of composition. It is also firmly rooted in the Romantic tradition, although the two styles do not clash.

Gassner's *Science Fiction* for piano (Milka Lachs), tuba (Shmuel Hershko) and magnetic tape represents the opposite extreme of modernism, exploring diverse sonorities.

The dynamism and energies of Zur's *In the Eye of the Storm* (The Israel Camerata conducted by Yaron Gottfried) seems to belie its title that suggests extreme, menacing calm and motionlessness.

Betty Olivero, in *East* for clarinet (Orit Orbach) and orchestra, hoists her flag of ethnicity in music by her associative choice of tone color, improvisatory-sounding patterns and calculated heterophony.

Outstanding for its freshness and spontaneity was the *Concerto for Piccolo* (Lior Eitan) by the laureates' junior, Avner Dorman, 26. Unlike most of the other works, it comfortably abstained from representing any severe *Weltanschauung*. Instead, it unabashedly expressed *joie de vivre* and a disarming natural smile. It is the kind of music that deserves even more encouragement in the future.