

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program:

Year:

Please present your activity report according to the following guidelines. The whole report must not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as a Word document).

Name of Program: Within the Secret of Many Voices — Piyut, Tefilla and Music Festival – The Snunit Foundation and the National Library

Year of activity: 2019

Name of the report's writer: Yair Harel and Michal Brilliant

Function of the report's writer: Founder & Artistic Director and General Director

Mail: michal@snunit.org.il **Phones:**

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

We ended the second festival with a feeling that it was highly successful and opens many possibilities for the future. It was the festival's second year, and our principal goal was to establish it as a major and original event in Israel in the field of Piyut, prayer, and Jewish music; an event of unique character that brings together a variety of traditions, artists, thinkers, perspectives, and artistic languages, and encourages a living and creative dialogue between different worlds and approaches to Jewish Culture, encouraging the connection between past, present, and future, in a way that appeals to a varied audience. We are starting to work on the third festival (please see the details below) out of a wish to go up another level, expand the scope of the festival, develop additional fields with an emphasis on interfaith relations, and deepen and widen the circle of partners in Israel and abroad.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

1. The festival's great success may be attributed to the fact that the work on it takes place throughout the year and in various fields. For example, we held a launch of projects that began at the level of research and documentation and proceeded to a complex artistic process that was presented at the festival and recorded, and has gone further in Israel and abroad.
2. A lively public-relations campaign took place around the festival, with exposure on the various networks.
3. The opening performance was broadcast live on Army Radio (45,000 listeners)
4. The festival's events were sold out to a highly diverse audience of approximately 2,000 people.

5. Approximately 20 events — performances, workshops, and gatherings — were held.
6. Many artists performed at the festival, representing a wide spectrum of Jewish Israeli culture.
7. We held a special interfaith event that brought traditional styles of Torah reading, with various cantillation systems from the Oriental Jewish communities, with traditions of reading the Quran. The event was one of the festival's greatest successes, and we plan to expand the festival's interfaith aspect next year.
8. The festival became established as a significant anchor event of the National Library of Israel.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

Our principal tool is feedback from the audience, the artists, and the media, as well as our own analysis of the various work processes around the festival, and learning from experience.

The general sense was one of having made significant progress.

In addition to the size of the audience, the general feedback that was often repeated was that the festival's program was original and high-quality, and succeeded in providing a dynamic picture of the rich diversity of voices in the world of piyut and prayer in a variety of perspectives and artistic-social experiences.

The festival presents a great challenge, and requires work throughout the year as well as a multi-year perspective.

We hope to keep improving the artistic program and expanding the circle of partners and audiences of the festival, as well as its general influence on society and culture in Israel and abroad.

We hope, as soon as possible, to obtain the resources and collaborations that will enable us to work in depth and over the long term.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Principal goals:

- To expand the festival from three to five days
- To develop innovative original artistic projects
- To develop the interfaith aspect
- To develop a channel of activity with an emphasis on education, teachers, and pupils
- To develop a pilot in the theater field
- To maintain the basic language of the festival — a variety of artistic experiences (such as workshops, performances in intimate settings, performances in large settings, and exhibitions)

Timetable:

- November — Conclusion of post-festival meetings and learning from experience
- December — Start of work on the festival program, collaborations, and resources
- March — Advanced draft of the festival program with an emphasis on main anchors of content
- May — Festival program and budget base completed
- June–August — Work on all channels — content, production, marketing, advertising, and public relations
- September 21–25 — Within the Secret of Many Voices Festival 2020