

## Dr. Amit Weiner

Composer for films, media and concert music

### Bio

Amit Weiner enjoys an international multi-faceted career as a composer and a pianist. His experience growing up in the enchanted and versatile Jerusalem shaped his approach to music of different styles and genres.

Amit Weiner's music focuses on intermingling traditional Jewish melodies and contemporary compositional techniques. These compositions have had over two hundred performances worldwide, including New York's Carnegie Hall and across the USA, the UK, Austria, Germany, Russia, Canada, China, Japan, Ukraine, Italy, Ireland, Malaysia, Nepal, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and Israel.

As a composer for films and TV he has composed three full length film scores, five theater plays, and many albums of Library Music (Production Music). Amit works as a composer with the biggest companies in the film industry such as Universal Production Music France, Warner/Chappell Music Group Production, Sonoton (Germany), Non Stop Music, Gothic Storm Music (UK), and more. His music and has been licensed and featured on films and TV in Japan the US, to Europe and China.

As a composer he is active in the fields of concert music, music for film, and popular music. His oeuvre includes over 40 chamber and orchestral works, among them three concertos for piano and orchestra, a number of orchestral works, chamber music, songs, and works for piano.

His music has won many international competitions and awards, among them recently the 2nd Prize at the Alfred Schnittke International Composers Forum and Competition 2016, in Lviv, Ukraine, The Asian Composers League "15-Minutes-of-Fame" competition, The Acum Israel Foundation, The America Israel Cultural Foundation, and more. Weiner performed in many festivals around the world. Among those: The 2017 New Music on the Bayou Festival in Louisiana, USA, The 2017 Florida International Toy Piano Festival, The 2016 International Trumpet Guild Festival, Los Angeles, USA, The Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival 2012, The Jerusalem Film Festival 2011 and 2013, The International Band Orchestras Competition in Vienna, Austria 2016, and more.

Dr. Weiner is a senior staff lecturer at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, as the Head of The Cross-Disciplinary Composition Division, and teaches composition, theory classes, and directing ensembles. He holds a Ph.D. in Composition from Bar Ilan University in Israel, with undergraduate and graduate degrees in Composition from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Since 2012, Amit Weiner was elected two consecutive times to be a member of the council of the Israeli Composers' League. As a member of ACUM Israel, Amit Weiner's compositions are published by the Israeli Music Institute and the Israeli Composers' League, in Israel and abroad.



## Personal details

**Date of Birth:** April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1981  
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## Academic Education

2012 **PhD in Composition**, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Supervisors: Prof. Betty Olivero, Prof. Gideon Levinson  
2006 **Master's degree (M.Mus) in composition**, The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance & The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Supervisor: Prof. Vladimir Scolnik  
2004 **Bachelor's degree (B.Mus) in composition and piano studies**, The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Israel. Supervisors: Prof. Tzvi Avni, Prof. Haim Permont, Prof. Ari Ben-Shabtai

## Work Experience

2002 – Present **Composer, Pianist, Conductor**

- Works as an active composer and pianist in the fields of contemporary music, music for films and TV, and popular music
- Has an oeuvre includes over 40 chamber and orchestral works, soundtracks for three full-length silent films, and credits for music libraries for TV and films
- Played and performs regularly in Israel and around the world in music festivals and by well-known orchestras, ensembles and independent musicians
- Works as an arranger and conductor of different ensembles and orchestras of Israeli songs. Has arranged more than 80 songs.  
[Additional elaboration in section "Artistic Activity"](#)

10/2016 – Present **Head of the Cross-Disciplinary Composition Division** at The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Nature of work:

- Responsibility of student's recruitment and admission process
- Establishing cross-faculty and cross-institutional collaborations
- Supervision of undergraduate and postgraduates Honours projects
- Jury member and head of election committees in students' competitions
- Advising students on academic matters, and grading Final Composition Portfolios

10/2014 – 09/2016 **Senior Lecturer** (equivalent to assistant professor level) at The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Nature of work:

- Teaching core and elective courses
- Teaching individual composition lessons in the B.A. and M.A. program
- Developing teaching aids and materials for the faculty's staff at core courses
- Active involvement in students' recruitment

10/2009 – 09/2014 **Adjunct Lecturer** at The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Nature of work:

- Teaching core courses in the performing arts faculty, in the B.A. program



- Instructing student's ensembles in the cross-disciplinary-music faculty

10/2006 – 09/2014 **Lecturer at the External Studies Institute** of The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

Nature of work:

- Teaching a variety of courses designated to the general public and music lovers in an accessible and enjoyable way.  
Amongst the common topics are: contemporary music; classical music versus popular music; forms in classical music; Israeli music and Israeli Jazz

## Scholarships and Awards of the past five years

- 2019 Winner of the **Call for scores by Österreichische Gesellschaft für zeitgenössische Musik** – Austrian Society for New Music with the composition "Rage Against the Piano". The composition was performed in Vienna on November 2019 (Vienna, Austria)
- 2018 Winner of the **Call for Piano Recordings by RMN MUSIC label** (London, UK)
- 2018 Finalist of the Banaue International Music Composition Competition 2018 (competition will be held on July 2018)
- 2017 Winner of the **Society of Composers Region VII Conference 2017 call for scores**  
The **composition** "Suite for horn, tuba and piano" (Tempe, Arizona, USA) was performed on October 2017 at the Society of Composers Region VII Conference 2017
- 2017 Winner of the **RMN International Call for Piano Solo Works**  
The **composition** "*Anagram no. 2 - for solo piano*" was performed by pianist Jelena Makarova, at the Contemporary Workshop Events on November 2017 (London, UK)
- 2016 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner of the Alfred Schnittke composition competition  
The **composition** "*Rage Against the Piano*" was performed by: piano - Nataliya Martynova, with soloists of Lemberg Sinfonietta, at the Lviv Philharmonic Hall (Lviv, Ukraine)
- 2016 Winner of the **VDG Call for Viola da Gamba (Bass Viol) and Piano works**  
The **composition** "*Passacaglia Funebre*" was recorded and featured in a CD devoted to new music, performed by violist: Andrew Arceci (Boston, USA)
- 2016 Winner of the **International Trumpet Guild 2016 Conference Call for Scores**  
The **composition** "*At the Gates of Jerusalem*" was performed with trumpet player Fred Sienkiewitz (USA) the composer at the piano, at the ITG Conference 2016 (California, USA)
- 2015 Winner of the "**15 Minutes of Fame**" **competition by Asian Composers League in Malaysia**  
The **composition** "*Pulsating Waves*" was premiered at a special concert held on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 (Kyoto, Japan)
- 2014 Winner of the **International Society for Contemporary Music Irish branch broadcasting competition**  
The **composition** "*If This is a Man?*" was broadcasted on both Israeli and Irish radio during 2014
- 2013 Winner of **ACUM** (Society of Authors, Composers and Music Publishers in Israel) **grant**  
An advancement scholarship for the encouragement and support of Israeli composer's original work



## Academic Activity: Conferences and Master Classes

- November 2019 **A week of masterclasses in composition for media and film scoring**, at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music (Chengdu, China)
- May 2019 **Master class in composition, with live performances of Weiner's music for piano**, at the **University of Oldenburg** (Germany)
- March 2018 **Master class with live performances of Weiner's music**, at the **Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing** (China)
- 2012-2017 **Master Classes** on composition, improvisation and **chamber music instructor** at the program for exceptional instrumentalists and singers in northern Israel. (Mizra, Israel)
- October 2017 **Master class and profile concert at Southern University and A&M College** (Louisiana, USA)
- October 2017 **Presentation about "Arvo Pärt - The 'Holy Minimalism' and 'New Simplicity' as 'Total Serialism' in disguise". University of Tennessee Contemporary Music Festival 2017** (Tennessee, USA)
- October 2017 **Master class and profile concert at the University of Montevallo** (Alabama, USA)
- October 2017 **Performance of the composition "Suite for horn, tuba and piano" at the Society of Composers Region VII Conference 2017**, with the composer at the piano (Tempe, Arizona, USA)
- October 2017 **Master class and profile concert of 60 minutes of Amit Weiner's music**, as a composer and a pianist at **Washington State University** (Washington, USA)
- June 2017 **Presentation and concert about "Musical Characteristics of Jerusalem Songs" at the "What is an Israeli Song" conference** by Bar-Ilan University (Israel)
- May 2017 **Presentation about "Music and Geography: The Local Flavor of Israeli Jazz" at the New Music on the Bayou Festival** (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA)
- January 2017 **Performance of the composition "Floating Fifths" at the 2017 Florida International Toy Piano Festival** (Miami, Florida, USA)
- January 2017 **Master class at the Yangon Arts and Sciences University** (Myanmar)
- June 2016 **Performance of the composition "At the Gates of Jerusalem" at the International Trumpet Guild 2016 Conference** (Anaheim, California, USA)
- June 2015 **Presentation and concert about "Jerusalem of Gold – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" at the "What is an Israeli Song?" conference** by Bar-Ilan University (Israel)



## Artistic Activity - Highlights

- May 2019 **Four performances of a new composition:** "Walk with Bach" a concerto for Mandolin and a baroque orchestra. Commissioned and performed by Concerto Foscari with soloist and conductor Alon Sariel, at Oldenburg, Goslar, and Osnabruck, Germany.
- November 2019 **Commission** of music for a theater play: "**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**", by Ken Kesey, for several performances on November 2019 (Tel Aviv, Israel)
- February 2019 **Concerts in Chengdu and Chongqing, China.** Concerts held at the White Elephant Hall (Chongqing) and improvised concert at Nu Space (Chengdu) (China)
- January 2019 **Concert in Singapore.** Concerts held at the Esplanade Recital Hall, organized by the Israeli Embassy in Singapore, with musicians from the YST Conservatory of Music. (Singapore)
- January 2019 **Concerts in Manila, The Philippines.** Concerts organized by the Israeli Embassy in The Philippines.
- 2018 **Commission** of music for a theater play: "A Chorus of Disapproval", by Alan Ayckbourn, for several performances with live music, on November 2018 (Tel Aviv, Israel)
- 2018 **Commission of composition** for Tuba and Piano, for the participation of tuba player Deanna Swoboda at the Tuba and Euphonium Festival (Madrid, Spain)
- 2017-2018 **Musical producer, arranger and conductor** of the two-years-project "Notes of Hope" – a concert commemorating music written by composers murdered in the holocaust, including both professional symphony orchestra and a children orchestra.  
The project was initiated by the Jewish National Fund (JNF UK) with the Italian musicologist Francesco Lotoro.  
The **gala concert** took place on April 15th 2018 in Jerusalem (Israel), **in the presence of ambassadors and diplomats, ministers of the Israeli government**, donors and special guests.
- 2017-2018 **Musical instructor and producer** of the project "Voices of the Heart" – M.A. composition students at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance composed new original compositions especially for children choirs from all over Israel.  
  
The project's final **gala concert** took place on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Jerusalem, with 200 choir children at YMCA Hall Jerusalem (Israel).
- 2012- **Founder and producer** of the project "Music in Times of Tragedy" – a series of concerts dedicated to music written and performed during the Holocaust. Live music interwoven with personal stories of Jewish musicians who perished during the Holocaust.  
The concerts are held regularly as part of the **International Holocaust Remembrance Day events at embassies** around the world, **especially in Asia:** China, Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Taiwan, and more.  
Dr. Weiner is the **producer, pianist, arranger and lecturer** at the event, which also includes local musicians.
- 2015-2018 **Creator of the show** "When Jazz meets Classical Music" in collaboration with Known Israeli Jazz saxophone player Shlomi Goldenberg. A **unique cross-disciplinary performance/** dialogue about the interaction between these two different genres.  
The show ran **over 15 times** all over Israel, and still running.
- October 2017 **Performance** of the composition "At the Gates of Jerusalem" at **University of Tennessee Contemporary Music Festival 2017** (Tennessee, USA)
- May 2017 **Performance** of the composition "The Story of The Pied Piper of Hamelin" at the **New Music on the Bayou Festival** (Louisiana, USA)



- February 2017 **Performance** of the composition "*Anagrams*" at the concert series Emergents I=I (Toronto, Canada)
- 2017 **Commission of Music for the Theater Play "*Suitcase Packers*"**, presented with live music with the composer at the piano and melodica, at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio
- 2017 **Commission** of Concertino for solo percussion and a symphony orchestra by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and percussion master Chen Zimbalista.  
**World premiere** was held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, by Chen Zimbalista and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, at the Jerusalem Theatre concert hall (Israel).
- October 2016 **Performance as composer and pianist** at the *Israeli Music Holiday Festival* with the Israeli ensemble Ma-Trio, at Elma Hall, Israel.
- March 2016 **Performance as pianist** at the *Jewish Music Days Festival* with the Israeli ensemble Ma-Trio, at Ono College Hall, Israel.
- 2016 **Commission of sound track to the Italian documentary film "*Alla Ricerca delle Origini del Male*"** produced by Rai TV Italy.  
The film was **broadcasted on Italian TV and on special screening** at Rome and Milano (Italy) during 2017, and participated on **film festivals** around Europe.
- June 2015 **Participating as a pianist in the Italian documentary film "*Souna Ancora*"** produced by Rai TV Italy.  
The film was **broadcasted on Italian TV** during 2015-2016.
- 2015 **Commission of composition for two orchestras** – professional orchestra and children orchestra, by the famous conductor Chen Zimbalista.  
**World premiere** was held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, by the Beer-Sheva Symphony Orchestra, at the hall of performing arts at Beer-Sheva (Israel).
- 2015 **Arranger for the concert series "*Singing & Song*"** produced by Israeli pianist Ido Ariel.
- 2013-2014 **Musical instructor** at the project "*Voices of the Heart*" – B.A. composition students at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance are writing new original compositions especially for children choirs from all over Israel.  
The project's final **gala concerts** took place every year in Jerusalem, with 7 children choirs.
- 2013 **Commission of live soundtrack to the Israeli silent film "*Jewish Life in Palestine*"** (1913) produced by Jacob Gross.  
The film was **screened at the 2013 International Festival of Jewish Cinema** (Jerusalem), accompanied by **live performance** of the commissioned sound track.
- 2011 **Commission of live sound track to the German silent film "*Breaking Home Ties*"** (1922) by the National Center for Jewish Film (NCJF).  
The film was **screened** accompanied by **live performance** of the commissioned sound track on **several festival** and Cinematheque theaters, amongst are: 2011 International Festival of Jewish Cinema (Jerusalem), the **Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival (2012)**.



## Languages

<b>English</b>	Speaking - <b>fluent</b>	Reading - <b>fluent</b>	Writing - <b>fluent</b>
<b>Hebrew</b>	Speaking - <b>native</b>	Reading - <b>native</b>	Writing - <b>native</b>
<b>Italian</b>	Speaking - <b>intermediate</b>	Reading - <b>intermediate</b>	Writing - <b>intermediate</b>

## Computer Skills

<b>Cubase</b>	Proficient
<b>Sibelius</b>	Proficient
<b>Kontakt</b>	Proficient
<b>Finale</b>	Intermediate
<b>Pro Tools</b>	Intermediate
<b>Microsoft Office</b>	Proficient

