

Innovations classic rock

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By Karen Zehavi

Concert Reviews, Innovation and Chamber Ensemble, Einav Cultural Center, July 9

In an attempt to enliven the usually mannered classical-music concert scene, composer Avner Dorman and his rock band Innovation presented a concert of mixed works, running the gamut from established composers such as Alberto Ginastera and Aram Khachaturian to premieres of new music by Dorman and Joseph Bardanashvili.

Teaming up with a chamber ensemble, led by pianist Zehava Simon and violinist Shimon Abelovich, Innovation stole the show, with Dorman's Concerto for violin and rock band, Concerto for piccolo and especially the rowdy, scintillating ethnic dance 9/8 for Rock Band.

These works straddled the cultural divide between rock and classical music elegantly and showcased elements from sources as diverse as Vivaldi and the Jackson 5. Soloists Ayal Shiloach (violin) and Lior Eitan (piccolo) lent an essential enthusiasm and polish to the proceedings, which were hampered by a problematic sound design and pathetic light show.

Shosh Lagil - soprano soloist in Ginastera's Tokoman Songs, Dorman's Nofim and Bardanashvili's Just Come and Go - sold her part of the program with grace and versatility, despite some mousy accompaniment from the chamber ensemble musicians.

The two groups came together in the end for the world premiere of Just Come and Go, and the chamber ensemble finally shed some of its anemia, as a result of this interaction. Featuring Lagil's scat singing and some jazzy controlled improvisation, the work broke no new stylistic ground, yet ended forcefully and effectively with a series of counter-punches.