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# MAKOM'S NEW ISRAELI PLAYLIST

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We're excited to share with you [Makom's New Israeli Playlist](#) - a curated collection of contemporary Israeli music.

You might not be able to visit Israel during the pandemic, but we want to make sure you can still **enjoy authentic and engaging Israel experiences**.

Through our New Israeli Playlist, you'll be able to **see and explore Israel through new eyes** - the eyes of some of Israel's finest artists.

In our interview with Ehud Banai included in the playlist, he says his mission is to try to hear, listen to, and communicate the unique melody of the Land of Israel. He calls it *Zimrat HaAretz*, a poetic allusion to Genesis 43:11.

We hope our playlist will open up a whole range of melodies, lyrics, contexts, and interpretative meanings - so you too may enjoy of *Zimrat HaAretz*.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- **A range of Israeli music videos, with our English subtitles** (approved by the artists, and with their full permission to use).
- **A short video guide for each song**, taking you through its context, its references, and offering you questions for contemplation or group discussion at the end.
- **A printable guide for each song**, primarily for those who wish to teach or run an event around the song.
- **A fascinating interview with Ehud Banai** about his music, and what it reveals about the Israel he sees.



## THEMES

We've selected and organized the songs according to three themes, and one artist.



**New Religious Music** offers a taste of some of the recent hits emerging from the religious Jewish community in Israel that have reached the Israeli mainstream.



**Protest Songs** are a gathering of some old and some new songs that rail against a status quo they reject.



**When Israelis sing of Europe** is a collection of songs that swirl around the challenging question of Israelis' relationship with the continent of the Holocaust. Three

Israeli artists respond to the phenomenon of Israelis emigrating from Israel, often to live in Berlin, Germany.



**Everything you need to know about Israel through the songs of Ehud Banai**

Rather than imposing a theme on the art, we let the art sit at the center of our inquiries and learn from the song and lyrics themselves. We also offer an overview of the four songs we have chosen, trying to ascertain what Israel is through the eyes and ears of Ehud Banai. (As a bonus extra, Banai was kind enough to answer questions about these songs in a video interview.)

## HOW TO USE THE PLAYLIST

All of this material was created by Makom, with the generous support of the Jim Joseph Foundation. It's made available to you for no charge.

If you'd just like to check out the music, and enjoy the "cultural translations" offered in the video guides - have fun!

If you're an educator or a program provider, you'll see we've not included specific lesson plans. It's our hope that people will use these materials in all sorts of contexts!

Below are a few tips if you're using this playlist in a group or learning setting:



## GET THE TECH RIGHT

- **In-person events:** Make sure there is a large screen visible to all, with loud uncompromising speakers.
- **Online events:** Make sure that everyone is sitting in front of a large screen (not a cellphone), with loud speakers and a good internet connection.

## FOR CONVERSATIONS, THINK PARDES

We often recommend working with **Pardes** as a framework. The acronym **PaRDeS** - פרד"ס - is used as a way of interpreting sacred text, that one can adopt and adapt for more secular uses, as well:

פ - Pshat - **Simplified** - What is the simple straightforward meaning? Did everyone understand all the words? Did you get what's going on?

ר - Remez - **Allusion** - What is being referred to? What is the context in which this song exists, and to what events or texts does it refer?

ד - Drash - **Sermon** - What is the intent of the song? What does the artist want to say, or make us feel or think through this song?

ס - Sod - **Secret** - While in classic study-houses, this would be a more kabalistic mystical level of exploration, we tend to interpret Sod to point to the inner dimension - how and where does the song meet you, your identity, your feelings?

# Enjoy!

And stay tuned as we add  
more songs to our playlist!

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