

# World Music Festival – A Celebration of Musical Cultures

The Gibraltar World Music Festival spread over two nights of concerts at St. Michael's Cave closed last Thursday night with a brilliant musical programme dotted with international soloists who, each in their own right, made music that our historical founder Tarik Ibn Zeyad would have been proud to listen to.

The concert started with smooth introductions by the celebrated conductor Tom Cohen who set the stage for the Mark Eliyahu Ensemble. This five piece ethnic instrumental group gave us music that transported us to the mountains, valleys and plains- it spoke of beauty, shepherds, love and family and it was a sweet language of virtuoso music which made the capacity audience burst into spontaneous applause after each haunting solo. The father and son musical chemistry between Mark and his dad, who composed most of the pieces, was clearly and audibly evident as they complemented each other musically with folk instruments never previously seen here on the Rock.

After a rousing performance by the Mediterranean Andalusian Orchestra from Ashkelon in Israel which weaved musical images full of eastern promise and happy tribal dances it was time

## MUSICreview by Joe Adambery

for the Diva Yasmin Levy to cast her spell with her fine vocal instrument.

Yasmin Levy was all that was needed to seal a truly magical evening of music that we don't get to hear often in this little part of the world.

She sang Sephardic, Ladino and Spanish songs and many originals but it was her unique and graceful staccato vocal phrasing which made the joy of seeing and hearing her complete. However all was not clear in the PA mix and I and many others couldn't

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make out a lot of the words- a great pity as she had the audience captivated by her sheer virtuosity and professionalism. Standing ovation was in order as



Father and son Mark Eliyahu.



Yasmin Levy with conductor Tom Cohen.

were various encores which will make the evening unforgettable for many.

It was clear to me that a lot of work had gone into arranging such a musically and culturally diverse orchestra blessed with extraordinary ethnic soloists to complement the original music of Yasmin Levy, but in her effusive thanks to everyone she was especially grateful to the conductor Tom Cohen who clearly

demonstrated that he was happy to have led the music of such an outstanding and happy musical collaboration. Thanks must go to the many sponsors who keep these events alive through their support and although I did not attend the first night of the festival it was by all accounts a success too, so here's hoping that next year we will benefit from a third Festival of International music.



Culture Minister Steven Linares with members of the organising team.



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