

Irene Orleansky

the journey of 2700 years



Irene Orleansky is a Russian born Israeli singer, Chapman Stick player and producer. She is known for her work with the band Ra (Russia), the duo Irene&Virginia (Israel, Italy), the trio Cides-Marotta-Orleansky (Spain, USA, Israel), the project Ekome (Israel, Ghana), but mostly for her solo projects.

Her debut album *Live The Music* presented her skills as a singer, musician and song-maker. Though her voice and Stick can be heard throughout the CD, in her new album *Music of Israelites and Jews of Africa and Asia*, Irene acts primarily as a producer. The CD *Music of Israelites and Jews of Africa and Asia* is the result of Irene Orleansky's fascinating two-year journey through Africa and Asia. Equipped with a mobile studio, Irene visited nine Israelite and Jewish communities sometimes at distant and dangerous places to record music with the communities' artists.

The story of the lost tribes started in the 7th century BC in the lands of Aramea and the Kingdom of Israel when the Assyrians invaded the Northern lands and deported ten Israelite tribes of the Northern Kingdom, thus starting the longest exile in the history of mankind. For many centuries those tribes were considered lost, until the last centuries, when technological developments in transport and communication revealed what had been previously hidden. The Ethiopian Jews of the tribe of Dan made an epic return when Israel airlifted them in Operation Moses in 1984 and Operation Solomon in 1991; Bene Israel of India, supposedly of the tribe of Zebulon, returned to Israel between 1948 and 1969. Right now thousands of Bnei Menashe are coming back home from North-Eastern India and Burma. Still there are thousands of descendants of the lost tribes of Israel who remain in the lands of their exile and thousands more to be rediscovered yet. her journey, Irene privileged to witness and actively participate in fulfilling the Biblical prophecy, the return of the lost tribes of Israel, to discover unique music and culture of her long lost brothers and sisters.

While traveling, Irene saw hardship, poverty and discrimination that many of the Jewish communities in Africa and Asia encounter in their daily lives, and decided to turn it into a charity project to raise funds to support those communities in need.

There is a number of artists who agreed to contribute by adding their instruments to the songs that Irene recorded: Tony Levin of the USA, the bass/stick player for Peter Gabriel, King Crimson, Seal, Lou Reed, Dire Straits etc., Virginia Splendore of Italy, may her memory be blessed, one of the world best stick players and a talented fretless bass player with whom Irene

had long and fruitful collaboration, Jerry Marotta, the drummer of Peter Gabriel, Indigo Girls, Tears For Fears, Suzanne Vega etc., Don Schiff of the USA, a stick and bass player for Elvis Presley, Tina Turner, Sheryl Crow etc. ;Reuven Ben Chanan of Israel , an innovative klezmer violin player, and others.

Irene's voice and all the three of her sticks can be heard almost on every track of the CD. The music of the CD full of unusual instrument combinations, such as the Chapman Stick and the Chinese gou zheng, the NS/stick and the Indian veena, the electric upright bass and the Manipuri goshem and lhemlhei, the stick and the Ehtiopian krar.

All the music of the CD was recorded on the field and arranged by Irene Orleansky, mixed by Irene's life-long friend and music partner Kirill Malahov at Music Brothers Records in Russia, and mastered by Donal Whelan at Mastering World in UK.

"Irene is a beautiful musician. Her friendly demeanour, like a long-awaited family, sincerity, enthusiasm, patience, deeply moved everyone at Beit Hatikva." Yael Zhang Xin Yin (from her article in Beit Hatikva newspaper of the Jewish community of Kaifeng, China)

"We appreciate her energy, time and efforts to bring our community music to the Jewish world. Mrs. Irene has deeply connected with our community members and we are also inspired by her teachings very much." (from the newsletter of Bnei Ephraim Community, India)

"I like to think of her as following in the footsteps of another Jewish musician Paul Simon who released "Graceland", a collaborative effort between himself and notable South African musicians like Hugh Masekela and Miriam Makeba." Remy Ilona (from his book Studying The Jewish Tribe of Nigeria)

All the money earned from the sales of the album are used for supporting and promoting music and arts of Israelites and Jesws of Africa and Asia.

www.ireneorleansky.com

