

# The TZABARIM Folklore Ensemble

are pleased to present an evening of Israeli and Arab folklore.



The **TZABARIM** Folklore Ensemble is composed of young men and women born in Jerusalem.

Israel is the meeting point between two cultures: the East and the West. The folkdances of Israel express the vitality, the pluralism and the hopes of its people. They express the beauty of the Holy Land which has gathered to its bosom Jews who were exiled from its shores and dispersed throughout the world for generations. Israeli folkdances have been influenced by the pioneers who came from Eastern Europe, by Hassidic Jews, by Jews from Arab countries and by the folkdances of the Arabs and Druze living in Israel.

The Name "**TZABARIM**" is the pluralized Hebrew form of "**tzabar**", the fruit of the cactus (more commonly known as "**sabra**") which, like the native Israeli, is rough on the outside but sweet inside.

## PROGRAMME

- 1. Jerusalem Hora:** one of the loveliest and modern among the more than 300 Israeli folkdances.
- 2. The Debka:** rooted in Arab folklore and originally danced by men only. With the changes in attitudes and customs towards women in this century, they are now participants in this dance which still retains its virile character.
- 3. Songs of Israel:** some old, some new — a potpourri of the best and most popular.
- 4. Fishermen's Dance:** the west coast of Israel, the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River serve as an inspiration for this dance which depicts the fishermen's expedition — the farewell, the longing of the women for their husband's return, and finally, the meeting anew.
- 5. Hechalil:** an Israeli flute melody.
- 6. Shepherds:** the shepherds and sheep at play against the background of the vast fields of the valley. On the one hand liveliness, peacefulness, and tranquility on the other hand.

### Intermission

- 7. Hassidic Dance:** Hassidic Jews praise the Almighty in a joyful manner in which their belief, prayers and thankfulness are expressed through dance. Hassidism is an intense and mystic branch of Jewish piety which has its roots among the Jews of Eastern Europe in the middle of the 18th century.
- 8. Dance of the Tambourines:** based on the Biblical passage: "... when David returned from slaying the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities, singing and dancing with ... songs of joy and with instruments of music." (I Samuel 18:6).
- 9. Dances of the Yemenite Jews:** The Jews of Yemen were completely isolated from their brethren in the rest of the world for more than 2000 years. For them, dance is also an expression of their prayers to the Almighty. The central theme of these dances is their love of Zion — of Jerusalem, and the expression of their hope for return to and the redemption of the Holy Land.
- 10. Arab Tambour Players:** from East Jerusalem, these young Arabs are masters of playing the tambour which is made of clay and over which goatskin is stretched. Tremendous manual dexterity is needed as the taut goatskin is tapped with the fingertips bringing forth the rhythmic and tempestuous sounds of the Middle East.
- 11. Israel Hora:** A young and dynamic dance, full of the pioneering spirit which filled the hearts of the first Jews coming to Israel, and which has become the national dance.

Attention please! Folklore cassettes of the show and folklore cassettes with Israeli songs are available in the entrance hall to the performances.