

Adler Israel (1925 - 2009)

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Israel Adler was born in 1925 in Berlin and emigrated at the age of eleven to Palestine. He pursued Talmudic studies in yeshiva in Jerusalem and Petah Tikvah. After the establishment of the state of Israel (in 1948) he went to Paris where he studied music at the Conservatoire National de Musique, at the École Pratique des Hautes Études and at the Institut de Musicologie at the Sorbonne, where he graduated with a Doctorate in 1963. From 1950-1963, he was in charge of the Hebraic/Judaic section of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

In 1963, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem appointed him Director of the Music Department of the Jewish National and University Library. There he founded in 1964 the Israeli National Sound Archives and the Jewish Music Research Centre, which he directed from 1964 to 1969, and again from 1971 to 1999. From 1969 to 1971, he served as Director of the Jewish National and University Library. In 1971, he was appointed Associate Professor of Musicology at Tel Aviv University, and in 1973 he joined the Department of Musicology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Professor 1975, Chairman 1974-1977 and 1987-1989, Emeritus since 1994). Israel Adler initiated, in 1967, the foundation of the Israel Musicological Society, which he chaired several times.

Israel Adler was the founder and president of the Provisional Council of the International Association of Sound Archives (IASA). Israel Adler was instrumental in view of the development of sound archives as archives that focus not only on music recordings as part of library collections but on other kinds of sound recordings within research institutions and archives as well. In addition, as an active member of IAML, he expressed his disappointment at the inactivity of the Federation Internationale des Phonotèques (FIP), which was under the umbrella of IAML already in 1968. And as a result, he formed a group of scholars who established IASA in 1969 during the course of IAML's annual conference in Amsterdam.

Israel Adler was vice president of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres. He was founder and co-director of YUVAL-France (Center for the preservation of the musical traditions of the Jews) and member of the Commission Internationale Mixte of RISM and RILM. From 1991 until 1997 he was member of the Executive Committee of the International Music Council of UNESCO, and in 1997 he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Musicological Society.

He was guest lecturer at numerous European, North and South American universities, and Chercheur Associé at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. In 1984 he obtained the "Kavod" Award of the Cantors Assembly (U.S.A) and in 1994 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of the Hebrew Union College (New York, Cincinnati, and Jerusalem).