

PALESTINE'S MUSIC

To the Editor of The New York Times:

AS Palestinian musicians now residing in America, we feel it an an hoonr and a pleasure to congratulate in the most hearty way Messrs. Ossip Gabrilowitsch, Mischa Elman and the Jewish Club of New York City for the noble step of offering their efforts recently for the highly important task of musical culture in Palestine.

During the last decade the idea has arisen to improve musical education and propaganda of Jewish music in the Holy Land. In 1924 an association was founded in New York City for the erection of a national Jewish conservatory in Jerusalem. There were also private donations from artists, and efforts were made by Palestinian musicians in order to establish a faculty of music at the Hebrew university.

But all these attempts were unsuccessful until last Spring, when Ossip Gabrilowitsch visited Palestine. With his usual energy he took the affair in his hands and he was crowned with success. During the present academic year the faculty of music of the Hebrew university began its functioning.

Like all other faculties of the National University, this new one requires national support. The concert of Elman and Gabrilowitsch on April 14 was the first step to provide the necessary funds.

As musicians who have been working for years in Palestine, we know the importance of such an artistic and scientific institution for our land. We, therefore, appreciate in the deepest way this authoritative and noble deed toward the strengthening of Jewish national musical culture.

May this example stimulate similar achievements among Jewish artists and associations for the same purpose—to erect a Jewish National Conservatory in Jerusalem.

JACOB WEINBERG,
M. RUDINOFF,
ARIE ABILEAH,
RUTH LEVIASH,
M. DAYAN.

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