

ve some insecurities about out my height, even though nds that his music is very ced by his American roots. s much of his life and views world reflect his American ging. "I see myself as because I grew up here, but

and fun, showing sure signs of being hits. "That is very encouraging to hear, that the album is catchy," says Kaplan. "I hope that it continues and that, someday I will explore writing in English, but this is where I want to be for now, for worse or for better."

and singing with before Coffy met Big Guns of the Albert was a major recalls. me of the world uring Japan and much of her time ing the States in ith a touch of the om the north but onal roots in the s able to cater to in the different

th, the audiences sticated angle on uth everyone just e natural." ne life ended so n her youth, does s in spending so ut of a suitcase? I'm glad I have a hen the gigs are ven the big stars e." she adds with

g had a tough ride ler. "As a woman on the road," she d what my friend ohnson once told because you have

ainly has plenty of l have a chance to that next week.



**Sweet Miss Coffy - 'As a woman, it's been tough for me on the road.'**  
(Courtesy Quintaros Music)

ill hold a post-screening dis- on their experiences work- ogether. Additional screen- of the film, which is in sh, will take place on lay at the Tel Aviv nateque, and Wednesday at aifa Cinemateque. Friday Jazz jam at Pargod er is the thing to do if you o play music. Just grab your r, and head on over to the the- Entrance is free of charge, rnk minimum. y pick in Jerusalem - tonight night for Haoman 17. Doors at midnight, tickets are avail- at the entrance. : Nawa Ensemble is playing he Confederation House day night. Playing Ethnic e, this group is very good, should not be missed. For ts and information call (02) 090. kids of all ages the fanciful and of the Wild Things will at the Train theater on rday afternoon. The play is at 11 am. For tickets call: 561-8514.

**And points beyond**

If you missed Eli and Mariano in Tel Aviv, you can catch them in Tiberias on Saturday night at 9:30 pm at Yad Shitrit Theater. In the Ninas Valley, the Holiday of Holidays festival is underway, and with it the art trail. The houses in the valley have artwork displayed on their exteriors, turning the entire valley into a gallery. The festival is on through the end of the year. This exhibit honors the co-existence between Arabs and Jews who live in the Valley. Entrance is free of charge. *The Little Girl in the Plant*, the Train Theater Play, will be shown in Haifa at the Hecht Museum at Haifa University. This fun children's play is recommended for kids over the age of four. The play will be Saturday at 10 am. For tickets call (04) 825-7773. The Bima production, *A Tourists Guide to Warsaw*, is playing on Saturday night at the North Theater, beginning at 9 pm. For tickets call (04) 824-0430.

# Songs on my mind

Mezzo soprano Varda Kotler finds nuance, style, and spirit in her favorite art songs

Every time mezzo soprano Varda Kotler walks out on stage there are two things she says occurs. The first is the ability to muster the discipline to convey the fitness, energy, and concentration that a singer must have.

Secondly, she fully brings to the audience the irresistible combination of great musical compositions and beautiful poetry.

"It is not that I think singing is dispensing a bunch of candies to the audience, rather it is my opportunity to share moments that I feel are expressions of great humanity," she says.

Born in Tel Aviv, Kotler entered the Rubin Academy as a piano student. While singing in the choir, the director discovered that she had a lovely, light mezzo-soprano voice with a wide range.

Moreover, Kotler found a joy of singing she did not know she possessed.

"Singing is an amazing world, and it was my good luck to be able to study with the wonderful teacher, Netania Dovrat," she says smiling. "The goals Netania impressed on me early on was how to sing with a clean line and, most importantly, to be faithful to the directions of the composer. Within these limits, the singer has the opportunity to put in their own essence. In other words, if a ritardando (a marking which means to get slower) is written in the music, you must do it. "Nevertheless, the way you do it and the feelings you express are the choice of the artist. In addition, Netania Dovrat also taught me to sing with my whole body. It is a magnificent feeling that takes you up to God."

Presently, Kotler shuttles back and forth between Tel Aviv, where her husband and family live, and the opera houses of Zurich, Geneva, Monte Carlo, and Paris, where she specializes in singing oratorio - as well as light soprano, operatic roles like Cherubino, Rosina, and Siebel.

Nevertheless, she says that, although the life of an artist is very demanding, it is important never to give up on your family. That is where she finds her true support.

Kotler enjoys blending her operatic career with recitals of art songs, such as the one she will perform in Tel Aviv on Friday. For her it is fascinating to find the character of each piece, its nuance, style, and spirit. Here are five of her art song favorites:



1. Mozart Lieder "The Violet," text by Goethe. "I love these songs because of their highly refined, yet fragile style. A singer must build every phrase very carefully and be careful not to exaggerate. I think they are examples of perfect elegance."

2. "Queen of Seagulls," music by Francis Poulenc, poetry by Louise de Vilmorin. "You can tell that it is a woman poet who wrote the words. They convey a sensual warmth and a feminine expression of mood. "Queen of Seagulls" is part of a song cycle called metamorphoses, where each piece is in a different mood and touches the soul in a different way."

3. "Vocalise" by Ravel. "One is transported into a different world of Spanish fantasy by this song. It is written in a mystic and softly, exotic mood. I think of painting in watercolors rather than oil as I sing "Vocalise." Some singers do it brilliantly. I aim for the beautiful colors in this piece rather than the "diamonds" of coloratura in order to create a mood that is soft and a bit erotic.

4. "Se tu m'ami, se sospiri" (If you love me) - music by Giovanni Pergolesi. When I build a recital, this song is a very good starting point. It is a delightful combination of an interesting and lovely melody with words that just "bite" with cynicism. This makes it an amazing combination."

5. "Tarentelle" by Georges Bizet - "I enjoy this song because it sparkles with brilliant, operatic writing. At the same time, it paints an enthralling picture of a butterfly as unrequited love in an overall mood of reflective thoughts."

- Sarah Hershenson