

"Cholot & Mecholot"

"Sands & Dances"

Two Episodes for Chamber Orchestra
By : Tovy Meshoulam

First Episode : **"Desert Storm"**
A Fantasy based on two Israeli songs

Second Episode : **"Beauty"**
A Paraphrase of an Arab folk song

Instrumentation

Flute & Piccolo

1st Oboe

2nd Oboe & English horn

Clarinet

Bassoon

1st French horn

2nd French horn

Full String Section

Yom-Tov Meshoulam's composition "**Cholot & Mecholot**" ("**Sands & Dances**") is based on two compositions that are intertwined, whilst preserving the individual character of each one. This is the composer's statement of hope and longing for brotherhood with our neighbours.

The first episode presents the merger of two songs: "Shdemati" ("My Soil") and "Orcha Bamidbar" ("Desert Caravan"). Both were written in 1927 and have become pillars of the Hebrew song. The two songs are joined in a contrapuntal manner, where each one of them retains its own character and together are presented in a new and refreshing way. The piece brings to light the composer's approach to sonority, and examines bold chordal structures.

The second episode is a paraphrase of the Arab folk song "A-Yazen". It is influenced by the Oriental tradition in Russian music (as expressed in the works of Borodin, Balakirev and Rimsky-Korsakov). The composer stresses exotic elements: a wide use of pedal point ("drone"), winding Arabesque melodic lines which build with intensifying rhythmic repetition, all of which make the composition both poetic and thrilling.