

ISRAEL'S GREAT NEW HIT SONG

# JERUSALEM OF GOLD

SUNG BY MARGALIT WITH THE

# Feenjon Group

Produced & Directed by MENACHEM DWORMAN

DESIGN: EDWARD BUBAUM

**monitor**  
MUSIC OF THE WORLD

MONITOR

# JERUSALEM OF GOLD

MFS 488  
STEREO

## The FEENJON GROUP

The Feenjon Group can be heard nightly at the Cafe Feenjon, located on Macdougall Street in New York's Greenwich Village. From the very beginning, the Feenjon has been a mecca for lovers of Israeli, Greek, Arabic, Turkish and Armenian song and dance. Many notables of the entertainment world, too, attracted by the informal atmosphere and musical excitement of the Cafe, have become late-late habitués and frequently participate in the performances. Such celebrities include Herschel Bernardi, Theodore Bikel, Eartha Kitt, Yaffa Yarkoni, Shoshana Damari, Jose Feliciano, Allan Sherman and others.

Erwin Frankel, host of WRFM's "Music From Around The World," has described the unique Feenjon sound as "at times sensuous, often lilting, always passionate . . . seduces the listener into hand-clapping, shoulder-weaving, foot-hopping participation."

MENACHEM DWORMAN is the founder\* of the Cafe and leader of the Group. His self-taught guitar and oud are the sparks that give Feenjon performances their warmth and excitement. He has taken the Group to countless concerts which include Carnegie and Town Halls and the New York World's Fair. Manny has recorded Near Eastern and Greek as well as Israeli music.

\* and co-owner with Robert Engelhardt

MARGALIT ANKORY is a fifth-generation Sabrah. Her professional background includes theater, musical comedy and two movie appearances. Whether in the earthiness of her *Aravah* or the poetic sensitivity of her interpretation of *Jerusalem of Gold*, Margalit's range and versatility are a valuable asset to the Group. Her many New York appearances include the Waldorf Astoria, the New York Hilton and the Concord Hotel.

HEVRON LEVI was born in Israel of Yemenite parentage. He developed his talents on the dumbeg (round Arabic drum) at the Feenjon. Hevron is one of the Group's original performers and contributes strongly to its dynamic style. He lends his rich and powerful voice as well as his hard-driving drum to several of the selections on this album.

JERRY SAPPPIR also dates back to "the old Feenjon." His musical warmth and sensitivity as well as his wit and charm add greatly to the Group's personality. A graduate of the School of Performing Arts and Brooklyn College, singer-guitarist Jerry has toured with a cantorial choir, made many TV appearances, and displayed his versatility on several record albums.

ALI HAFID, the only Arab member of the Feenjon Group, was brought to the United States to perform at the Moroccan Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. Ali is considered to be the outstanding drummer in the field of Near Eastern music.

SHLOMO SHAI was born in Israel of Turkish-Cuban parents. He is one of the few Israeli accordionists who has been successful in capturing the qualities of both Sephardic and Ashkenazic music styles. He has toured the U.S.A. with various Israeli groups.

YAKOV DAN, a recent arrival at the Feenjon, makes a guest appearance here with *Ayil, Ayil*. He studied at the Jerusalem Conservatory of Music and has performed with various groups throughout Europe.

STEVE KNIGHT, guitar.  
LOU MAVROGIAN, bass.

### JERUSALEM OF GOLD

*Jerusalem of Gold* is the great new song that has captured the hearts of the people of Israel. Written by composer Naomi Shemer for Israel's Annual Song Festival competition on May 15, 1967, it expressed the unfulfilled longing of the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem. "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem . . . may my right arm lose its cunning . . ."

On June 5, war broke out. When it ended, five days later, the Old City of Jerusalem was once again part of Israel. To a people astounded and elated by the lightning swiftness of events, this seemed the literal fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. And the song *Jerusalem of Gold* was there to give voice to the feeling of the nation. Naomi Shemer added a stanza celebrating the return. The emotional impact of the song was so strong that it was immediately adopted by the Israeli people and cherished as a hymn. It seems destined to achieve international popularity as well.

#### Side One

1. YERUSHALAYIM SHEL ZAHAV Jerusalem of Gold (Israeli) 4:10  
Vocal solo: Margalit
2. MIGDALIM Towers of the Fortress (Israeli) 1:30  
Vocal duet: Hevron and Jerry
3. EREV BA Evening Comes (Israeli) 3:25  
Vocal solo: Hevron
4. CHIRIBIM (Yiddish) 2:05  
Vocal solo: Margalit
5. HABENA BADENA We Love Each Other (Arabic) 3:55  
Vocal solo: Ali
6. RAD HALAILAH Night Fell (Israeli) 2:05  
Vocal solo: Hevron

#### Side Two

1. ARAVAH Wasteland (Israeli) 2:05  
Vocal solo: Margalit
2. RUMANIA (Yiddish) 3:45  
Vocal solo: Jerry
3. DABER ELAI BIFRACHIM Talk to Me with Flowers (Israeli) 2:10  
Vocal solo: Shlomo
4. RACHEL (Israeli) 3:15  
Vocal solo: Margalit
5. SHIFTATELLI (Arabic) 3:40  
Instrumental featuring Manny on Oud and Ali on Drums
6. AYIL, AYIL Ram, Ram (Israeli) 2:35  
Vocal solo: Yakov

#### About the Feenjon, by Menachem Dworman

The sound of the Feenjon Group is closely related to the way the Group developed. In 1960, I opened a place today referred to as "the old Feenjon." Informality was the rule. Very often I would sit down among the coffee drinkers and chess players with my guitar or mandolin to accompany one or another of the many musicians who wandered in. Gradually, more and more musicians came to look upon the Feenjon as their second home, and frequently they joined in its never-ending jam sessions. The spontaneous excitement generated then has been retained through the years by the Group.

In 1963, I moved the Feenjon to its present location on Macdougall Street. Though these larger quarters demanded a different approach to the music, I nevertheless wanted to maintain

the informality and spontaneity of the old Feenjon. So today, although we may sit on a platform with microphones before us, the same party atmosphere and spirited audience participation fill the air.

The music we play reflects our ethnic background, which is basically Israeli. However, we are the only Israeli group to play Arabic music as well and, in fact, to employ an oud, an Arabic instrument, as an integral part of our sound. Though this may be politically inconsistent, it very accurately reflects the ethnic makeup of Israel today when, unlike twenty years ago, at least as many Israelis identify with music of Arabic origin as do with European music.

Two songs of European origin on this album are *Chiribim* and *Rumania*. *Habena Badena* and *Shiftatelli* stem from Arabic sources. A blend of both influences is evident in *Rachel*.

Added to the ethnic origins of Israeli music are the hopes, struggles and joys of the nation itself. *Rad Halailah* resounds with the enthusiasm of the early pioneers. *Aravah*, a cowboy song, and *Ayil, Ayil*, a shepherd's song, celebrate the joy the Jews felt in working with the soil of their own land after centuries of deprivation.

The album also illustrates the change that has taken place in use of Biblical themes. Where once songs utilizing Biblical material emphasized sorrow and longing, the resettlement of Israel has produced such songs as *Migdalim* which are dynamic and joyful.

Aside from history there is romance, which is, of course, universal and is expressed in *Erev Ba* and *Daber Elai Bifrachim*.

Finally, the Israeli speaks of his identity with history and his land in *Jerusalem of Gold*. It is sad and yearning until the last stanza, which sings of the joy of a people who have realized the final and most meaningful step in their dream of returning to their land—a return to Jerusalem.

#### The FEENJON GROUP on MONITOR



#### An Evening at the Cafe Feenjon

(Stereo: MFS 497)

Bei Mein Rebbe Is Givaizin  
A Ganayva (Yiddish); Beryuzovye Kalyuchki (Russian); Erev Shel Shoshanim (Israeli); Aina Zorga (Arabic); Lomer Alleh Singen (Yiddish); Biklibidia (Greek); Marinella (Greek); Donna, Donna (Yiddish); Shishelai (Turkish); Efiges (Greek); Mäch Mach (Arabic); Doce Cascabeles (Spanish).

#### THE FEENJON GOES GREEK

Featuring  
Anestos Athanasiou  
(Stereo: MFS 482)

Oso S'Agapo; Kaimos; Figh; Gypsy Sorrow; Zorba; Mineh; Pou Tha Vro Yineka; Hasapiko; Mandoubala; Psaropoula; Koukla; Yerakina. (With complete Greek text.)



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YERUSHALAYIM SHEL ZAHAV

(Jerusalem of Gold)

Lyrics and music: Naomi Shemer

1. Avir harim tzalul kayayin  
Vere'ach oranim  
Nisa beru'ach ha'arbayim  
Im kol pa'amonim.

Uvtardemat ilan va'even  
Shvuya bachaloma  
Ha'ir asher badad yoshevet  
Uveliba choma.

Refrain:

Yerushalayim shel zahav  
Veshel nechoshet veshel or  
Halo lechol shirayich ani kinor  
(Repeat refrain)

2. Eicha yavshu borot hamayim  
Kikar hashuk reika  
Ve'ein poked et Har Habayit  
Ba'ir Ha'atika.

Uvam'arot asher basela  
Meyalelot ruchot  
Ve'ein yored el Yam Hamelach  
Bederech Yericho.\*

Refrain: Yerushalayim shel zahav...

3. Ach bevo'i hayom lashir lach  
Velach likshor ktarim  
Katonti mitze'ir banayich  
Ume'achron hamshorerim.

Ki shmech tzorev et hasfatayim  
Kineshikat saraf  
Im eshkech Yerushalayim  
Asher kula zahav.

Refrain: Yerushalayim shel zahav...

4. Chazarnu el borot hamayim  
Lashuk velakikar  
Shofar kore be'Har Habayit  
Ba'ir Ha'atika.

Uvam'arot asher basela  
Alfe sh'mashot zorchot  
Nashuv nered el Yam Hamelach  
Bederech Yericho.

Refrain: Yerushalayim shel zahav...

\* This stanza not included on this recording.