

## **Irena Kogan Klein: Composer . Curriculum Vitae.**

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**Occupation:Composer, Arranger, Tutor, Musician, Choirmaster,Lecturer.**

Irena Kogan Klein (Irena Scalerica) was born in Kharkov (USSR).

Composer, musicologist, folklorist, pianist, violinist.

Winner of International Composers Competitions, winner of Vocal Competition, winner of Israel's festivals, Producer of more than 3000 concerts of the ensemble "King David's Children" in Israel, Holland, USA, Germany. Author of ballet "Scenes of Vincent Van Gogh Life", opera "12 Months" , musicals:" Intervals", "Shay and Shelly", author of music for theatrical productions I'm Clown , Two Arrows, Rhino and Giraffe , The Song of Solomon, the author of the ensemble's concert programs of" King David's Children", the composer of more than 40 Programs for Radio " Kol Israel" and Radio America WMNB ,author of music for films: Shalom al Israel , Mother Tongue,Creativity and others.

### **Biography:**

Irena Kogan was born in Kharkov (USSR) and studied music 10 years (violin and piano) in special music school in Kharkov.Music talent Irena inherited from both sides:

from mother Sophia Agranovsky (pianist and accordionist),from her grandfather Evsei Agranovsky (saksafonist and flutist) ,from the famous uncle James Lombard, he played the bass and from her father Zinoviy Kogan. He was a talented engineer, the author of many books and articles, but at home he was a singer and writer.In this family everybody loved and knew literature, poetry, painting from childhood.

Irene's parents gave a maximum of light, joy to her and her sister Alla as far as possible in the post-war stalinist country.

She continued her music education in St.Petersburg : in the Rimsky Korsakov Music College and the Rimsky Korsakov Academy(1967-1974).

During study in the college and the Conservatory (1968-1974) were written and performed in Leningrad, Vyborg, Moscow, Kharkov piano sonata, a trio for violin, piano and cello, song cycle on poems by S. Marshak, O.

Driez., Tale in music - Cycle for instrumental ensemble and soloists of the ballet - it was a program for Leningrad Conservatory; Songs on Poems of M. Tsvetaeva, W. Blake. Irena Kogan has also written music for productions I'm a Clown - by E. Chepovetsky (Kharkov Youth Theatre) and Two arrows by A. Volodin DK-Lensovet, Leningrad.

Music for the play Rhinoceros and Giraffe by H. Gunther was awarded a special prize at the Festival of Children's Theatre in Bulgaria.

Irena wrote the 1972 ballet about American Indians, utilizing their folk music.

Irena's teachers were great teachers of Leningrad:

Tanya Bershinsky, Joseph Pustyl'nik, Galina Ustvol'skaya, Valery Maisky, Catherine Ruchevsky, Johann Admoni.

Since 22 years, Irena teaches solfège, music literature, composition in music schools.

Irena Kogan was awarded in the competition of vocal reading (1972).

During the 70's her work was performed in theatres throughout Russia, eg. in

St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kharkov, Kiev and Viborg. During that era she discovered her love for languages (English, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Hebrew) and the relationship between music and poetry.

During these years she worked as a teacher in music schools and lecturer-pianist. The theme of her lectures was classical and contemporary music.

The next decade brought her international fame, with her music being performed in Germany, Poland and Russia. She wrote and arranged music for movies and theatre and made several musicals.

In 1991 she emigrated to Israel to find personal and professional joy in raising an ensemble of 45 (mostly immigrant) kids, all searching for their roots:

King David's Children([www.kdchildren.org](http://www.kdchildren.org)).It was like all pieces of that big puzzle finally matched.The ensemble made fame by performing (singing and dancing) traditional Jewish songs (folk) in many languages, eg. Hebrew,Yiddish,Ladino,Yemenite and Russian, Spanish,Dutch, English. Since 1991 King David's Children has performed almost 3000 times in Israel and Western European countries.Famous worldleaders come to see the songs of The People being performed by the future of The people.Irena Kogan is widely recognized for her original and emotional arrangements for King David's Children,with many media covering her groundbreaking work.Three movies (1995,by M.Golan , 2003 by T.Schwarcz, 2005 by Film Studio of Rishon le Zion) were made about her and her work for King David's Children. Irena Kogan also released several solo albums with original music.It's a unique folk style,heavily influenced by Spanish an Middle Eastern rythms and positive emotions.For it,she received two honorable mentions in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest(2002,2003) and Song of the Year 2007 in USA.

From 2007 the circle of Irena's interests moved to the direction of Belgium and Holland. She is learning Dutch, she is reading the poetry of Willem Roggeman , Miriam van Hee,the novels of Cees Nooteboom, Harry Mulisch,Leon de Winter , Arnon Grunberg. She began to write the musical about Pieter Breughel de Oude . She wrote 7 songs for poetry of Willem Roggeman and Miriam van Hee and made the recording on the disk.

Irena became acquainted suddenly with the poetry of Aviv Ekrony ( Israely poet and translator) and wrote two ballads for his poems for the poetry festivals in a world.

## Songwriter Irena Kogan recognized by international contest

June 8th, 2007

## Pressrelease



Israeli composer Irena Kogan recently received the honor of being named Finalist by the [Song of the Year](#) songwriting contest. Song of the Year is an international songwriting contest supporting VH-1's Save the Music Foundation. The Song of the Year judges are some of the biggest names in music including many Grammy Award winners. Song of the Year is excited to recognize Irena for her exceptional songwriting ability for the song "**The Hope**". Irena competed against songwriters from all over the world for this honor. You can find more information about Irena Kogan by [www.irenakogan.com](http://www.irenakogan.com). More details about award are available [here](#).

The organisation of the [international film festival in Ashdod](#) has invited Irena with her ensemble [King David's Children](#) to perform during the festival.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

January 27th, 2007



Irena's songs for the baritone with the orchestra (lyrics by Sergey Kovarsky), devoted to the Holocaust in Lithuania, were performed on Israeli radio on January 27, Holocaust Memorial Day.

In 2009 Irena wrote a ballet *Scenes of Vincent Van Gogh Life, Music and Libretto*. She recorded the ballet on the disk. An idea of the ballet received the approval of Boris Eifman. In 2010 several organizations from Germany, America, Russia are interested in Irena's music for the movies.

## COMPOSITIONS

### Opera

**12 months.** Text by Samuil Marshak. Opera has been performed in Russia and Israel.

### Musical.

**Interval**, libretto by N. Mor, has been performed in Peterburg.

**Shai and Shely**, libretto by H. Rozen, has been performed in USA, Israel, Holland and Germany.

Spanish Fantasy, text by M.Roz,has been performed in Israel.

## **Ballet.**

Indian,libretto by I.Kogan, has been performed in Peterburg.

Scenes of Vincent Van Gogh Life,Libretto by Irena Kogan.

Ten fairy tales for piano and dance group.  
Has been performed in Peterburg.

## **Chamber works.**

Piano trio in C.for Violin,Violoncello and Piano.

String quartet in g.

Sonata for Violin and Piano in E.

## **Orchestral Works.**

22 pieces for Small Symphony Orchestra:

1- Jazz.

2-Kadish.

3-Karev Yom.

4-Lecha Ely.

5-Legend.

6-Endome para Marsilia.

7-Nimrod.

8-Scalerica de Oro.

9,10-Two Shakespeare's Sonnets.

11-Spanish Fantasy.

12-Story.

13-Tu estas durmiendo.

14-Yo me acodro.

15-La Soledad.

16-Mizmor David.

17-Memory's Day.

18-Barcheinu.

19-Adio.

20-Shnirele-perele.

21-My Love.

22-The River.

All orchestral music have been performed across Israel, Germany, Holland , USA .

### Vocal.

18 romances.Lyrics by M.Cvetaeva,A.Fet, F.Tutchev, O.Driz.  
For Soprano and Piano.

19 songs.Lyrics by S.Pogreb,Z.Polvanova,  
B.Komjanov,B.Kushner,S.Kovarsky.  
For Mezzo -Soprano and Piano.

12 songs in Yiddish.Lyrics by M.Felzenbaum.  
For Soprano,Barytone and Piano.

15 Ladino songs.Lyrics by an unknown author from Spain.  
For Mezzo-Soprano and Guitar.

More than 30 songs for children.Lyrics by  
K.Chukovsky,S.Marshak,V.Bleik.

8 Songs in Dutch.Lyrics by W.Roggeman,M.van Hee.

More than 170 arrangements of the folk songs in:  
English, Hebrew,Yiddish,Ladino,Yemenite,Russian, Dutch.  
All vocal music have been performed in Russia,USA,Holland,  
Germany,Israel.

### Music for the Theater.

1-Two Arrows by A.Volodin,has been performed in Peterburg.

2-Misfortune from the tender heart by V.Sollogub,has been performed  
in Charkov.

3- I am the Clown by E.Chepovecky,has been performed in Russia and  
Europe.

4- King Solomon by I.Becis, has been performed in Jerusalem.

5-Rhinoceros and Giraffe by M.Gunter, has been performed in Ukraine  
and Europe.

6- Fairy tale about the Gout by S.Marshak, has been performed in  
Russia.

### Radio Production.

Music for the Russian Radio.More than 21 programs.

Music for the Israeli Radio "Kol Israel".More than 48 programs.

Music for WMNB American- Russian Broadcasting.

3 programs.

### TV Production.

Music for the TV in Israel, USA and Russia. More than 28 programs.

## Films.

Three films about composer Irena Kogan. Producer M. Golan (1995), T. Schwarcz (2003), Film Studio of Rishon le Zion (2005).

Music for film of Vladimir Alenikov.

## Articles.

More than 34 articles in newspapers and magazines of USA, Russia, Israel in English, Russian, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Yiddish languages about the composer Irena Kogan.

## Discography.

9 Russian romances for Soprano and Piano.

King David's Children sing! - 16 songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Russian for the children and ensemble.

Musical "Shei and Shely" for the Small Orchestra.

22 pieces for the Small Orchestra.

Ballet "Scenes of Vincent Van Gogh Life".