

Shalom Haverim,

Along with the many positive responses that came our way following the week of *Maestro* activities in Ma'alot-Tarshiha, the Israeli Friends of *Maestro* are coming up with plans for action and support of our programs, as are the residents of Israel's northern region. I want to share with you several of the responses we received:

Here, in the words of a *Maestro* student (trainee) writing at the end of the weeklong program:

*During the past week, I received so much from all of you on the Maestro staff and the teaching faculty - in every possible aspect: whether the opportunity to play with (terrifically!) talented people and to study with wonderful teachers, or to teach six-year-old children how to blow into the mouthpiece of a flute (an experience I'll never forget). But most important: I got a great deal of support and love, something I'll take with me, that will accompany me for a long time to come - and it's my hope that some day I'll be able to give this to others as well, to the same extent. Your level of caring and concern, seeing to everything down to the smallest detail, your willingness to help and to listen, your openness - all these turned this week into something more than a teaching course: this was truly an experience of "family."  
Thanks for e v e r y t h i n g...*

*Hagit Caspi, Flutist*

And here, in the words of a participant in the events of the week's end:

**Aviva, shalom!**

*I was present at the wonderful concerts at the Hacienda Hotel in Ma'alot-Tarshiha on Friday and Saturday evenings, December 23-24, 2005.*

*The two concerts I attended were of the highest artistic quality. The choice of repertoire was well thought out and quite extraordinary, especially the program closing the week of Maestro activities. The performances were marvelous and distinctive, not only because of the virtuosity of the musicians (ALL of them!), but also for the mature, complex artistic interpretation of the works. The dynamic interaction between the instructors and their students was heartwarming to witness: their reciprocal regard, the sense of generosity and nurturing, could be clearly felt.*

*A lovely ambience, blending music and humanity, radiated from all those whose efforts contributed to this enterprise: musicians, initiators, support staff, producers, backers, and others (whose pardon I ask for my inadvertently omitting to mention them here), and flowed out to encompass the rapt audience.*

*My words are inadequate to describe the special nature of this experience. How to express the profound admiration I felt for this rare musical and human (and likewise pedagogical) encounter? Perhaps it would simplest and most accurate to say, that I came away from this superlative experience a truly happy person!*

*Aviva, I want to express my support for you and all those who've helped make Maestro a reality. If I may make only one small request: please don't let this special experience fade away and become a thing of the past. Let it exist in the present, and also help shape a new future for our area.*

*This isn't an easy place to live: not only is it hard to make a living, it's dreadfully expensive to heat our homes during the stormy winters, security is complicated, mobility is problematic, and it's difficult to keep in contact with family and friends because of the distances involved. For myself personally, I greatly miss the scope and quality of the cultural activities offered in the big cities.*

*So a project of Maestro's caliber and quality gives me hope for the future, that life in the Galilee can foster the existence of values I hold dear. It's my hope that the change is already happening.*

*I'm sending you and Maestro my best wishes for fruitful doings in the musical and humanistic spheres.*

*I'll be happy to help with Maestro in any way. With appreciation and thanks,*

*Ronia Harari Mitzpe Hila, Western Galilee*