

NOVEMBER 2005: FROM THE ARGENTINA INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL BROCHURE

*About the film "A JOURNEY OF SPIRIT": When the soul can sing*

By Gabriel Fleischer (\*) *Translation by Ines Kletzky*

In order to sit back and enjoy a film that tells about Debbie Friedman's life, several requisites are required: you must be sensitive to creation, identify with the high values of our People, and be able to open up your heart to Hebrew liturgy.

I used to listen to my grandfather sing, cantor Leo Fleischer Z'L; now I enjoy my father's performances -cantor Oscar Fleischer- so I feel I am in a condition to understand the legacy Debbie longs to leave in this world: the ability to move the audience and transmit Judaism through her music.

I would like to thank the International Jewish Film Festival in Argentina for enabling us to have access to such high quality material in which we may appreciate how Debbie interacts with different audiences in different situations, always offering her knowledge, energy, charisma and spirituality.

Thanks to brilliant Debbie many children and adults as well, have started to live Jewish lives, love prayers and embrace the words of the Prophets. Her melodies and lyrics, sung in synagogues all over the world, get to the people in different forms, in videos, books for children, educational publications and websites.

Her contribution constitutes a turning point in synagogue music, her unique style and talent inspire all of us to go on composing new melodies; that is why all cantors admire her: for the beauty of her performance and the magnificence of her work.

I do not feel I am exaggerating when I say I almost have the same feelings while listening to Debbie Friedman as the ones I have when I listen to great Shlomo Carlebach Z'L, as both their melodies seem to be coming from heaven (min hashamaim).

Watching her perform on different stages in A JOURNEY OF SPIRIT, is a unique experience because due to her charisma and human quality she can make the audience feel moved and thrilled in an incredible way.

The Festival introduces the film; Debbie Friedman gives our souls a voice.

(\*) Cantor

Director of Bet Asaf Institute

(Training Institute for cantors and singing teachers at the Latin American Rabbinical Institute Marshall T. Meyer)

President of Cantorlat (Latin American Cantor Association)