

Sketches Of Spain

Just as the Super Bowl marks another stage in New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning's career, so Israeli guitarist Nadav Lev's Carnegie Hall debut Sunday "marks another stage in my performing career," he says modestly.

Maybe Carnegie Hall (the recital hall, that is) at 30 is a late start for a classical musician, but as Lev himself says, "My roots are a bit unusual."

Born in Kibbutz Nachshon, midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Lev started out learning jazz guitar because that's what the teacher in the kibbutz liked.

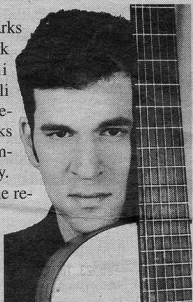
"I knew I would be a serious musician immediately," he says. "I loved the guitar. I started writing music in high school for the theater group there and I became interested in composition, which lead me to classical music."

He studied at the Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv and the Manhattan School of Music, where he now teaches. He has been here since January 2005, and he readily acknowledges that the city is itself a great classroom.

"The music education both here and in Israel is very good, but I find that people here are more focused on starting their careers [as performers]," Lev notes. "Maybe that's because you're in New York and there's so much going on. Education isn't something that just happens in the classroom; it's the people around you, the cultural atmosphere, and in New York, that's so rich."

Lev's program for his Carnegie Hall recital is a reflection of the diversity of Israeli culture, too, as well as the multifaceted nature of the classical guitar repertoire.

"Of course there will be some chestnuts," he says of the first half of the event, which includes pieces by Dowland, de Falla



Israeli classical guitarist Nadav Lev makes his Carnegie Hall debut Sunday.

and Villa-Lobos. "But I love contemporary music, so it was important for me that the program have a contemporary aspect."

Consequently, the program includes the American premiere of Ruben Seroussi's "Two Sephardic Songs for Guitar – Yo M'enamori D'un Aire/Morenica" and the world premieres of David Homan's "To the Door" and Jonathan Keren's "Three Sephardic Songs."

Although he is by his own admission "very Ash-

kenazi — my family are from Poland and Galicia," Lev feels a deep affinity with the Sephardic musical tradition. "About two years ago I saw Flory Jagoda in concert in Washington, D.C., and she inspired me to do more stuff related to Sephardic culture," he says. "I really love Sephardic culture and Ladino. Actually, I've been more exposed to it here than I was in Israel."

He suspects his choice of instrument may have amplified his love of the Sephardic.

"Classical guitar is rooted in Spain," he says. "I love Spanish music, so Sephardic music creates a natural, personal bridge between my Jewish identity and Spanish culture."

One might add that Lev's winning of an Andres Segovia Award in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in 2006 underlines that connection in bright bold letters.

George Robinson

Nadav Lev makes his New York concert debut on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall (corner of 57th Street and 7th Ave.). Tickets are \$25. To buy tickets or for more info, call (212) 247-7800, or visit www.carnegiehall.org.

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Palestinians from Gaza cross into Egypt after border breach. Sinai now off-limits for Israelis. 10A

Israelis Can't Hide That Shrinking Feeling

With Sinai security alert, 'psychological' map getting ever smaller.

Michele Chabin
Israel Correspondent

Jerusalem — Israel is a tiny country. This week, with the recent turmoil in Gaza and the rush of Palestinians into Egyptian-ruled Sinai, it got even tinier.

When it comes to the country's "psychological geographical" map, Israelis are beginning to think of it as the incredible shrinking nation.

Suddenly, it's not only rocket-ravaged Sderot on the front lines and off limits to most Israelis. Nearby Ashkelon — a 45-minute drive from Tel Aviv — is being targeted by Gaza Palestinians, along with smaller communities in the area. Longer-range rockets are now traveling the 10 miles between the border and the coastal city of more than 120,000.

And then there are the residual effects of the second intifada and the second Lebanon war.

"There are still people living in Tel Aviv who rarely if ever come to Jerusalem," said David Horowitz, editor-in-chief of the *Jewish Week*.

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Tuesday Vote Promises Fresh Data On Jews' Views

Huge swath of U.S. Jews to go to polls on same day.

Adam Dickter
Assistant Managing Editor

Next week's delegate-rich Super Tuesday contests will see an unprecedented surge of Jewish primary voting in a single day, and the results should offer the first solid glimpse of the community's attitudes heading into the post-George W. Bush era.

The only states with major Jewish populations not voting on Tuesday will be Florida, which held its primary this week (perhaps at the expense of gaining Democratic delegates) and Pennsylvania, which holds its primary on April 22.

Of the nation's estimated 6.4 million Jews, more than four million live in the tri-state area, California, Arizona, Massachusetts and Illinois, all of them Super Tuesday states.



If Jews turn out in big numbers on Super Tuesday, data gleaned from their preferences could be particularly revealing. GETTY IMAGES

Winograd Raps Olmert

An Israeli state inquiry into the conduct of the Lebanon war exonerated Ehud Olmert from charges that he ordered a botched 11th-hour ground offensive against Hezbollah for political purposes. The findings, released Wednesday, gave the embattled prime minister a boost in his effort to weather the storm of an otherwise blistering assessment of the government's performance.

The Winograd report found the war to be a "great and grave failure" but said Olmert used "reasonable judgment" in ordering the ground offensive.

For full story see *Jewish Week* Web site, www.thejewishweek.com

"There may be more Jews voting as one group on Super Tuesday than at any other time in history," said Democratic political consultant Hank Sheinkopf. If current primary voting trends hold on Super Tuesday — some primaries have seen record voter turnout in this unpredictable election year — the data on Jewish voters could be particularly revealing.

Up for grabs are 52 percent of Democratic delegates and 41

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McCain Surge Has Jewish Dems Worried

James D. Besser
Washington Correspondent

The Republican most feared by Jewish Democrats took a big stride toward winning his party's presidential nomination with a surprisingly strong victory in Tuesday's Florida primary.

Sen. John McCain's poll-betting Florida victory, combined with the meltdown



Sen. John McCain, here after Florida victory, could approach Ronald Reagan's Jewish numbers, observers say. GETTY IMAGES

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The New Jewish Self-Hatred

Rash of hate crimes allegedly by Jews raising questions.

Debra Nussbaum Cohen
Staff Writer

Suddenly, hate crimes are coming with a surprising, punch-to-the-solar-plexus twist.

In September, according to police, Ivaylo

Ivanov defaced synagogues and apartment buildings on his quiet Brooklyn Heights street with swastikas. And he seemed to be preparing to do even more, presumably targeting Jews with the pipe bombs, crossbow and sniper rifle that were discovered in his apartment earlier this month. The arma-

ments were found alongside a flier bearing a large swastika saying "Kill All Jews. Israel Land of Pigs, Die, Die, Die."

Ivanov, according to his lawyer, is Jewish.

In October, George Washington University freshman Sarah Marshak reported that five swastikas had been drawn on her dorm room door over eight days. Another swastika was drawn on another Jewish student's door, and on a fence near a university hospital. The subsequent investigation revealed that Mar-

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