



BESANT HILL SCHOOL  
*est. 1946*

# VISTING MUSICIAN: Tomer Gewirtzman

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The Besant Hill Community was very fortunate to have pianist Tomer Gewirtzman, a virtuoso pianist who had just performed as part of the Concert on the Mountain concert series, come to play and answer questions from our community at a special assembly. Born in Israel, Tomer started his musical education at the age of 8, with Ms. Raaya Shpol at the Rubin Conservatory in Haifa. From 2008 to 2011, he served in the Israeli Defense Forces, in the “Outstanding Musician” program, where he combined regular military service, with extensive music studies at the University. After completing his bachelor’s degree at the Buchmann-Mehta school of music in Tel-Aviv, he earned his Master’s degree and Artist Diploma at the Juilliard School, where he received the prestigious Kovner Fellowship award.

Tomer began his presentation by giving some biographical information about himself and his music education. He continued by sharing some background information about the musical elements of the piece from which he was to play several excerpts. Tomer to focus his presentation on Carnival, Opus 9 by Robert Schuman. Schuman is one of the most highly regarded composers of the Romantic period and



TOMER GEWIRTZMAN SHARES HIS PASSION FOR CLASSICAL PIANO WITH STUDENTS DURING A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

was known to write both programmatic and absolute music. Carnival is an excellent example of Romantic programmatic music, as there are musical characters throughout the piece that Schuman named and developed throughout the composition. Tomer chose a thorough explanation of each character and then perform the piece for the audience. This approach to performing the piece gave lots of musical and critical insight into the musical genius of Robert Schumann. Throughout the Masterclass, Tomer took numerous questions from students and faculty ranging from his favorite pieces to perform to his philosophies on practicing. It was really inspiring to hear some of the





VISITING MUSICIAN, TOMER GEWIRTZMAN,  
ANSWERS QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

profound questions that students asked him during the masterclass.

The Special Assembly was a wonderful opportunity for the Besant Hill Community to see and interact with a world-class musician. Due to the size of the theater and the arrangement of the seats in the Zalk Theater, there was not a bad seat in the house. One of my favorite fun facts about the event was when Tomer was asked what he likes to do to relax. His reply was that he was fascinated with math and that he loved to do math problems for fun which brought great laughter and cheers from the Math Department.

Not only did Tomer spend the morning sharing music with our community, but he also stayed for lunch and continued the dialog about music and math for nearly another hour with students.

Everyone was really grateful for Tomer Gewirtzman's time and talents, and we all greatly look forward to the next Masterclass/Special assembly featuring Chamber on the Mountain performers. ♦

Read more at [www.besanthill.org](http://www.besanthill.org).

*Besant Hill School offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, including more than 20 art electives, AP-level courses, competitive athletics, engaging fitness program, outdoor education, experiential education programs, small class sizes, and a 4:1 student-teacher ratio.*

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**Aún Aprendo**

"I am still learning."

**BESANT HILL SCHOOL  
OF HAPPY VALLEY**

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