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**51st ANNUAL CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE BRINGS TOP ISRAELI MUSICIANS,
ENTERTAINMENT AND FLOATS TO FIFTH AVENUE
ON SUNDAY, MAY 31**

Grammy Award-Winning Violinist Miri Ben-Ari to Headline the Parade

Empire State Building to be Lit Blue and White on Saturday, May 30

NEW YORK, N.Y. – May 18, 2015 - The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) today announced featured musical performers and entertainers, including **Miri Ben-Ari**, **Golem** and **SHI360**, will entertain hundreds of thousands of spectators for the 2015 Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday, May 31.

Miri Ben-Ari is a Grammy Award-Winning violinist/producer/humanitarian, “UN Goodwill Ambassador of Music to the United Nations Associations of Brazil,” Global Brand Ambassador for Harman Kardon and a featured blogger for the Huffington Post. Originally from Israel, she has created her own unique sound; a revolutionary fusion of classical, soul and dance music.

A classically trained violinist who once studied under the late classical master Isaac Stern, Ben-Ari has helped sell millions of records by collaborating with other Grammy award-winning artists such as *Kanye West, Jay Z, Wyclef Jean, Alicia Keys, Wynton Marsalis, Britney Spears, Maroon 5, Akon, Patti Labelle, Brandy, Donna Summer, Janet Jackson, John Legend* and *Armin Van Buuren*.

Ben-Ari will be performing live during the Parade TV broadcast and riding on the JCRC-NY float during the Parade.

Golem, a Klezmer-rock band, returns to perform at the Parade this year. Founded by Annette Ezekiel Kogan in New York City in 2000, the band (Annette Ezekiel Kogan, Aaron Diskin, Jeremy Brown, Curtis Hasselbring, Taylor Bergren-Chrisman, Tim Monaghan) has become a leading re-interpreter and innovator of Yiddish and Eastern European music, pushing tradition forward into the 21st century. Golem will be performing on the UJA float at the Parade.

SHI 360 is an Israeli born Canadian rapper, producer and performer. SHI 360 is credited with bringing some of the hip hop culture to Israeli rap. He made history with the release of the first Israeli hip hop mixtape (*360 Degrees in the Shade*), and hosting the country's premier Israeli hip hop radio show – The Lab. Within a very short time, SHI 360 quickly became a pioneer of Israeli hip hop and reached gold and platinum status before his own solo project was even released. SHI 360 will be riding on the State of Israel float during the Parade.

SOULFARM, a local band, will be returning as house band for the Parade, performing at the grandstand. SOULFARM was founded in Israel by Grammy Award-winner lead guitarist C Lanzbom and guitarist and lead singer Noah Solomon Chase. Their sound has been dubbed as New American music, with full melodic song writing and progressive modern arrangements. Their live shows are full of Mediterranean flavor with captivating guitar leads, dance rhythms and strong percussion breaks.

Maccabi Tel Aviv Basketball Club, the 6-time European and 51-time Israeli league champion will also join us in this year's Parade with two of their all-time legendary players, **Derrick Sharp** and **David Blu**. Sharp played for the Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club for 15 years, part of the time as team captain, and later served as assistant coach under David Blatt. With Maccabi, he won a record 27 trophies. Blu played for Maccabi Tel Aviv for seven seasons, during three separate stints. He is a two-time Euroleague champion and five-time Israeli League champion. He has also represented the Israeli national basketball team. Both will be riding the IAC float as it makes its way up Fifth Avenue.

The Parade will also feature several award winning marching bands, 15 total, including The Cadets 2, Windsor Regiment, Fusion Corps and the Connecticut Hurricanes, as well as a group of dancers from the Israeli Dance Institute.

In addition to all the performers, co-anchoring the My9 broadcast will be FOX anchor **Steve Lacey** and former MTV Europe VJ **Becky Griffin**.

In honor of Israel and the Celebrate Israel Parade, the Empire State Building will shine its world-famous tower lights blue and white on Saturday, May 30.

The Parade is the largest event in the world in celebration of Israel that highlights the positive impact the Jewish and democratic state of Israel has on the lives of people around the world.

For the latest information, please visit the Parade website at celebrateisraelny.org, follow us on Twitter [@celebrateisrael](https://twitter.com/celebrateisrael), visit our Facebook page: [Celebrate Israel Parade](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateIsraelParade) and subscribe to our YouTube Channel: www.YouTube.com/CelebrateIsraelNY.

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