

Music

MUSICAL MUSINGS
Eitan Freilich

Full faith in Hashem's master plan

Never would I have imagined writing this column this month. Never would I have imagined that I would be sitting shiva for my baby son last month. Never would I have imagined having another baby son in hospital whom I still can't take home. But this is exactly the point - life doesn't always go the way we want or plan. But with full faith in Hashem's master plan, we can only smile, trust, carry on and move forward, learning and growing from the experiences life throws on us.

I've said publicly and continue to say that I'm not one to spread negativity and sadness pointlessly. But we can never hide the fact that life has its ups and downs - we don't question HaShem when we experience good fortune, and neither should we question Him when we experience the 'pain'. Last month we named and buried our dear son: Avidan Yehuda. Avidan - G-d is just; Father and Yehuda - Our little lion. How proud we were of his extraordinary strength. How could we know that it would be our son who would be providing us with the strength, with the smiles, and with the most beautiful, precious five weeks we were privileged to share with him? We've had our highs and lows but our little boy has taught us the value of life. He taught us to smile when things seemed tough, he showed us the infinite love that can exist in this world and

most importantly for us, he created the most incredible Kiddush HaShem for the consultants, doctors, nurses and all those who were honoured to meet him. May we never forget the kindness HaShem bestowed upon us by granting us the best five weeks we could have asked for.

That said, my wife and I remain in hospital with our elder son, who has been named in order to strengthen the tefila: Yeshaya Nosson ben Shira Gittel. We are based in central London during the day which makes those city events easier. I also gave several radio interviews this week from the hospital waiting room, discussing the strength and chizuk we get from music. I know it's my job, but these past few months have proved its importance to me - and to every one of us. We've learnt to always see the good in all situations - and this isn't lip service, it's from the heart. Seeing our community locally and faraway, join together in tefilos and actions has been quite unbelievable - unforgettably heart-warming. Of course I continue to sing at events and weddings worldwide because, as I said live on air, when we need simcha, we don't cancel simcha! I even flew to Israel for just under 10 hours last week to honour that commitment. To fail in that commitment would have been an act of rejection, even betrayal, of those who were relying on me.

Best of all, the highlight

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of my year continues to be the schools Chanukah tour. Chanukah recently came round again, reminding us of those private and public miracles performed every day, right beneath our eyes. It was a packed Chanukah tour cramming in at least one school concert every day and the chance to perform before literally thousands of children. I always remember the entertaining Chanukahs I loved when I was at school, the strong, heartfelt associations I forged with Judaism, the fun and the learning. I'm just so honoured, and humbled, to have



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the chance to give back what I received myself - to hopefully become that warm, meaningful, fun memory for the children we are performing to. I think of myself as a link in that chain of learning through living, fun and music. Put it another way, I think of our Jewish heritage as a book, and of my contribution as just one page in that book. But still, however modest my contribution, I like to think of it as a small part of a bigger endeavour, the passing on of our culture and history to the next generation.

Between Manchester

and London we sang, we danced and we had the most uplifting, heart-warming experience. Talking about uplifting experiences, last month I had the pleasure of leading the Edgware community in a sing-along Friday night davening. I have no words that can convey the atmosphere that night. The coming together of a beautiful community, singing and davening to Hashem is something I will never forget.

For bookings and enquiries please contact the team at management@efmusic.co.uk