



**Bert Fink**  
*Senior Vice President, Europe*

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To whom it may concern:

As Senior Vice President/Europe for the office of Rodgers & Hammerstein, I have the enviable task of visiting productions of the R&H musicals all over Europe and the Middle East. It was in that capacity that I attended the premier of a new production of *The Sound of Music* (produced by Oded Feldman) at the New Israeli Opera House in May 2013.

It is from that production that I salute the talent of conductor/musical director/choral director Daniel Schwartzman. I had the honour to hear Mr. Schwartzman conduct *The Sound of Music* several times during my visit to Israel.

The quality of the orchestra was superb, adroitly led by Mr. Schwartzman, who captured the heart and essence of the Rodgers score – a sometimes challenging combination of Broadway verve and Viennese “schmaltz.” The rotating cast of children (I saw two sets during my visit) were likewise excellent, and the choral work of the Nuns was outstanding.

Mr. Schwartzman hails from New York City and, forgive my local pride, but it was great to hear some of that quintessentially Broadway sound inside the Opera House, effortlessly bridging the 6000 miles between Tel Aviv and Times Square.

Sincerely,

Bert Fink