

MALEK JANDALI

Composer and Pianist | Founder of Pianos for Peace

"Commissioned by the BSO, Jandali's 'The Silent Ocean' found a rapt audience at its world premiere."

– The Washington Post

"... deeply enigmatic... , speaks with voices and in tongues emerging from the composer's Syrian heritage that generously repay more reflective listening."

– Gramophone

Condensed Biography

Described as "deeply enigmatic" (*Gramophone*) and rich with "heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, clever transitions and creative textures" (*American Record Guide*), Malek Jandali's music is widely regarded as "a major new addition to the 21st century's symphonic literature" (*Fanfare* magazine). Recent commissions and premieres include a Viola Concerto for Roberto Diaz, a String Quartet for the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, and a world premiere by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Marin Alsop, who described *The Silent Ocean* as "an evocative and emotional journey for musicians and audience members. In this piece Jandali captures the struggle, trauma and triumph of our displaced brothers and sisters, through the voice of a child. It is a beautiful and important message."

Jandali's compositions not only integrate Middle-Eastern modes into Western classical forms and harmony but also echo UNESCO's call to preserve and protect the rich cultural heritage of his homeland Syria at a time when it is being eradicated. His repertoire ranges from chamber music to large-scale orchestral works including four symphonies, five symphonic dances, and six concertos. Jandali's works have been performed by numerous orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, Stockholm Solister, Norrlandsoperan Symphony Orchestra, Cairo Symphony Orchestra, and the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Jandali has self-produced seven albums of lauded performances of forty of his compositions. His albums *Syrian Symphony*, *SoHo*, *Hiraeth*, and *The Jasmine Tree* were released at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively. The *Huffington Post* described his work as "inspiring" and Bob Stevenson of NPR stated that his music is both "moving and thought provoking." His most recent album, scheduled for 2019/20 release, includes his Piano Concerto, recorded in Moscow with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra led by Sergey Kondrashev, and his *Elegy*, recorded in London with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by David Firman. Maestro Firman described Jandali's music as "gorgeous, haunting, yearning and full of hope, with a pain more personal than that of Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninoff."

Also an "acclaimed pianist" (*BBC World News*) noted for his passion, imagination, and authenticity, Mr. Jandali enjoys a remarkable career that has taken him around the globe—throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Norway, Qatar, and Australia among other nations. He continues to captivate audiences in performances at such prestigious venues as the Kennedy Center, Wiener Konzerthaus, Madrid's National Auditorium with the Queen of Spain in attendance, Cadogon Hall, Stockholm Konserthuset, Cairo Opera House, Nidaros Cathedral, Sydney Opera House, United Nations Headquarters, and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

Dedicated not only to preserving Syria's cultural heritage but to humanitarian causes, Jandali has been regularly recognized by and invited to speak at key institutions such as Harvard University, the Skoll World Forum at Oxford, Duke University, Aspen Ideas Festival, Fordham University, the United Nations headquarters in New York City, the Doha Debates at Georgetown University in Qatar, TEDx Talks at Georgia Tech, and Sydney Ideas at the University of Sydney. Mr. Jandali is the recipient of the 2014 Global Music Humanitarian Award and in 2015, the Carnegie Corporation of New York honored him as a Great Immigrant. He is a strong advocate for peace and was selected as a Visiting Scholar for the 2017/18 academic year in the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University.

Mr. Jandali is passionate about making the arts accessible to all and is the founder and CEO of Pianos for Peace, a non-profit organization dedicated to building peace through music and education. He embraces young talent from all over the world through the annual Malek Jandali International Youth Piano Competition. Mr. Jandali makes his home in both Manhattan and Atlanta. His music is published exclusively by Soul b Music, and his recordings are available from iTunes, Amazon, and Virgin Megastores worldwide.

www.MalekJandali.com

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