

## Condensed Biography

# MALEK JANDALI

Composer & Pianist

Malek Jandali is “**a uniquely gifted composer**” (*The Washington Post*) and his music has been hailed as “**a major new addition to the 21st century’s symphonic literature**” by (*Fanfare* magazine). Critically acclaimed for his unique musical voice that has been described as “**deeply enigmatic**” (*Gramophone*) and rich with “**heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, and creative textures**” (*American Record Guide*), Jandali has produced an impressive body of work that includes eight symphonies, seven concertos, four string quartets, other orchestral and chamber music works, as well as an upcoming premiere of his full opera, *The Square*.

A dedicated peace activist, Malek 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, a Pride of America. His large-scale orchestral works engage major philosophical themes and integrate Arabic maqams (modes) with persuasive craft and a marked seriousness of purpose that echo UNESCO’s call to preserve and protect the rich cultural heritage of his homeland Syria.

Prominent advocates of Jandali’s instrumental music include distinguished conductors Marin Alsop, Sergey Kondrashev, David Firman, Christopher Zimmerman, Alastair Willis, Pavle Dešpalj, Robert Franz, Delta David Gier, and Lina González-Granados. His music consistently makes a profound impact on listeners throughout the world. Maestro Alsop states, “**Jandali belongs among the superb composer poets of our time—a meaningful voice of quite astonishing, almost unearthly beauty.**”

Malek Jandali’s most recent premieres include his Viola Concerto for Roberto Díaz, his Clarinet Concerto for Grammy-nominated clarinetist Anthony McGill, and his Violin Concerto with Rachel Barton Pine. His 2023 album *Concertos* on the Cedille Records label received four stars from the *BBC Music Magazine*.

Jandali’s compositions have been commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic, ORF Vienna Radio Symphony, Russian Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, Zagreb Philharmonic, Stockholm Solister, Norrlandsoperan Symphony Orchestra, Cairo Symphony, and Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. His music has been performed, at major venues around the world including

Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Wiener Konzerthaus, Madrid's National Auditorium with the Queen of Spain in attendance, Cadogan Hall, Konserthuset Stockholm, Cairo Opera House, Nidaros Cathedral, Sydney Opera House, United Nations Headquarters, the National Museum of Qatar, and the Museum of the Future in Dubai.

Jandali has produced ten albums of lauded performances encompassing more than forty of his compositions. He is the first Arab musician to have arranged the oldest example of music notation in the world, which was featured on his 2008 album *Echoes from Ugarit*. His albums *Syrian Symphony*, *SoHo*, *Hiraeth*, and *The Jasmine Tree* were released at Carnegie Hall. His 2021 album contains Piano Concerto No. 1, recorded in Moscow with the composer at the piano and the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra led by Sergey Kondrashev; and *Elegy*, recorded in London with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. His 2022 album *The Desert Rose* features his Symphony No. 4 for string orchestra and Symphony No. 6, commissioned by Qatar Museums and recorded by the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra led by Marin Alsop. The symphonic poem *Silent Ocean* (2017) was commissioned by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. The plight of Syrian children was the inspiration for his second symphony, *Luminosity*, commissioned and premiered by the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra (ZPO) at Carnegie Hall. The ZPO premiered his third symphony, *Hiraeth*, at Lisinski Hall under the baton of Pavle Dešpalj.

Malek Jandali is passionate about making the arts accessible to all. He is the founder and CEO of Pianos for Peace, a nonprofit 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. Jandali enjoys a worldwide career as an acclaimed pianist noted for his combination of passion, imagination and authenticity (BBC WorldNews).

Malek Jandali was born in Germany and raised in Syria. He is composer-in-residence at both Queens University of Charlotte and at Qatar Museums. Jandali now makes his home in both Atlanta and New York City. His recordings are available on Cedille Records, Naxos, Apple Music, Spotify, and Virgin Megastores worldwide.