



MALEK JANDALI

c o m p o s e r

“a uniquely gifted composer...  
among the superb composer poets of our time.”

*The Washington Post*

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# BIOGRAPHY

Malek Jandali is “a uniquely gifted composer” (*The Washington Post*) and “a major new addition to the 21<sup>st</sup> century’s symphonic literature” (*Fanfare* magazine). His “deeply enigmatic music” (*Gramophone*) with “heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, clever transitions and creative textures” (*American Record Guide*) spans a broad body of work that includes eight symphonies, seven concertos, four string quartets, and his upcoming full opera, *The Square*.

His works have been commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading orchestras and distinguished soloists around the world, such as the Royal Philharmonic, ORF Vienna Radio Symphony, Russian Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, and the Zagreb Philharmonic. 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. Maestro Marin Alsop says “**Jandali belongs among the superb composer poets of our time—a meaningful voice of quite astonishing, almost unearthly beauty.**”

Mr. Jandali has produced ten albums of lauded performances of more than forty of his compositions. He is the first Arab musician to have arranged the oldest music notation in the world, which was featured on his 2008 album *Echoes from Ugarit*. Jandali is composer-in-residence at both Queens University of Charlotte and at Qatar Museums. He is also the founder and CEO of *Pianos for Peace*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building peace through music and education. 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. Malek Jandali was born in Germany and raised in Syria. He now makes his home in Atlanta and New York City.

“Inspiring and thought provoking, it further expands classical music.”

n | p | r | music





# QUOTES

“A major new addition to the 21<sup>st</sup> century’s symphonic literature by a master of the orchestra” - **Fanfare Magazine**

“Skilfully explores the intersection of Western and Arabic musical vocabularies.”

**BBC** *music*  
MAGAZINE

“Heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, clever transitions and creative textures.”

**AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE**  
INDEPENDENT CRITICS REVIEWING CLASSICAL RECORDINGS AND MUSIC IN CONCERT

“In *The Silent Ocean*, the stormy music evokes the image of a boat swamped by waves.”

THE BALTIMORE SUN

“Unique alchemy of European classical structures and Syrian architectural details.”

*The Washington Post*

“Gorgeous, haunting, yearning and full of hope.” - **David Firman**

 **ROYAL  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA**



"Jandali's symphonic works spoke directly to the audience, poetically and evocatively, to such an extent that I received personal feedback from audience members telling me how touched they were by what they heard."

**Christopher Zimmerman**

"Music making of the highest caliber. Jandali belongs among the superb composer poets of our time. A meaningful voice of quite astonishing, almost unearthly beauty."

**Marin Alsop**

**RSO**  
ORF RADIO SYMPHONIE  
ORCHESTER WIEN

"The piano writing is rhythmically spiky and highly virtuosic, while the orchestral scoring is brightly colored, vivid, and actively engaged with the solo part. Jandali proves himself quite the pianist in performing the piece, as well as a master of the orchestra."

**Fanfare Magazine**

"Jandali's deeply enigmatic String Quartet, even when punctuated by a few probably inevitable Bartókian moments, speaks with voices and in tongues emerging from the composer's Syrian heritage that generously repay more reflective listening."

**GRAMOPHONE**  
THE WORLD'S BEST CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEWS





# WORKS

CLICK FOR SCORES

Opera   The Square	64 Minutes
A full opera in two acts	
A Candle   For Orchestra and Chorus	17 Minutes
Symphony No. 1 Syrian Symphony	32 Minutes
Symphony No. 2 Luminosity	26 Minutes
Symphony No. 3 Hiraeth	38 Minutes
Symphony No. 4 For String Orchestra	28 Minutes
Symphony No. 5	30 Minutes
Symphony No. 6 The Desert Rose	38 Minutes
Symphony No. 7 Veritas	45 Minutes
Symphony No. 8 For Eleven Players	23 Minutes
Concerto for Piano and Orchestra	38 Minutes
Concerto for Violin and Orchestra	27 Minutes
Concerto for Viola and Orchestra	20 Minutes
Concerto for Cello and Orchestra	24 Minutes
Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra	26 Minutes
Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra	23 Minutes
Variations for Piano and Orchestra	9 Minutes
Five Symphonic Dances	16 Minutes
The Silent Ocean	17 Minutes
Phoenix in Exile	6 Minutes
The Silent City	7 Minutes
Elegy	8 Minutes





## **SYMPHONY NO. 1** SYRIAN SYMPHONY

## **VARIATIONS FOR PIANO AND ORCHESTRA**

World premiere recording at the Moscow Radio House with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Sergey Kondrashev, resident conductor of the Bolshoi Ballet.

## **PHOENIX IN EXILE**

World Premiere recording with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London with Maestro David Firman.





## SYMPHONY NO. 2 LUMINOSITY

Commissioned by and recorded with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Krešimir Batinić at The American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York City. World Premiere on February 6, 2016 with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Krešimir Batinić in Carnegie Hall.

## SYMPHONY NO. 3 HIRAETH

Symphony No. 3 Hiraeth coming from the Cymraeg (Welsh) language, Hiraeth has no direct English translation. It combines the ideas of 'longing' and 'yearning' with a strong sense of rootedness, place and belonging. A deep, wistful, nostalgic sense of longing for home; a home that is no longer or perhaps never was. A yearning and wistful grief for people and places of your past. Commissioned by and recorded live at the World Premiere with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Pavle Dešpalj on April 22, 2016 in Lisinski Hall in Zagreb, Croatia.

# MALEK JANDALI

The Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra

Symphony No. 2 in B minor | **Luminosity**

Symphony No. 3 in B flat minor | **Hiraeth**





## **SYMPHONY NO. 4 FOR STRINGS ORCHESTRA**

Symphony No. 4 was recorded by the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Marin Alsop in the Funkhaus Wien on March 3, 2021. In an extended series of recording sessions, they brilliantly brought to life several of Jandali's symphonic works, which Alsop describes not only as "inspiring" but "very, very challenging." Of the "very tricky" Fourth Symphony, she praised the players saying, "As they got into it, I saw them starting to move and, you know, it was almost as if it was a freeing experience for them." Alsop concluded describing Jandali as "a wonderfully gifted artist and a superb composer...his music is intensely passionate, eminently approachable, and filled with sophisticated surprises...music making of the highest caliber."

## **SYMPHONY NO. 5**

The World Premiere of Symphony No. 5 with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Robert Franz on March 22 & 23, 2025, at the Capitol Theatre Windsor in Ontario, Canada.





## **SYMPHONY NO. 6** **THE DESERT ROSE**

The desert rose, with its intricate crystalline petal clusters, forms over millennia through the interaction of minerals, sand, and water. Springing from the idea that architecture is frozen music, Malek Jandali's Symphony No. 6 takes its inspiration from both "desert roses," transforming them into a consummate orchestral work that preserves and presents the rich heritage of his Arabic culture and heritage.

The nine-movement symphony was recorded by the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, led by distinguished conductor Marin Alsop at the Funkhaus Wien, on May 15, 2021, just days after its completion. Says Maestro Alsop, "I don't know of another composer who so successfully weaves in the Arabic, particularly the folk elements. . . . and by bringing that into the symphonic structure and integrating them, opens up a whole new form. Jandali belongs among the superb composer poets of our time. A meaningful voice of quite astonishing, almost unearthly beauty."





## **Piano Concerto No. 1**

World Premiere recording with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Sergey Kondrashev

## **Violin Concerto**

World Premiere recording with Rachel Barton-Pine and the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony and Maestro Marin Alsop

## **Cello Concertos No. 1 & No. 2**

Recording in progress with the Maximilian Hornung and London Symphony Orchestra

## **Viola Concerto**

World Premiere with Roberto Diaz and the Rogue Valley Symphony and Maestro Martin Maikut

## **Clarinet Concerto**

World Premiere with Anthony McGill and the Fairfax Symphony under the baton of Maestro Christopher Zimmerman

## **Oboe Concerto**

Available for world premiere recording and performance





## A CANDLE

A symphonic work for orchestra and chorus based on poem by Rumi commissioned and world premiered by the SDSO and Music Director Delta David Gier on March 19, 2022 at the Washington Pavilion.

*"A candle as it diminishes explains:  
Gathering more and more is not the way  
Burn, become light, heat and help. Melt."*

**Rumi**





## THE SILENT OCEAN

*"The premiere of 'The Silent Ocean' by Malek Jandali was an evocative and emotional journey for musicians and audience members. In this symphonic poem, Malek 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."*

**Marin Alsop**

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

**The Washington Post**





# PRESS

The Guardian

GREAT IMMIGRANTS  
★  
GREAT AMERICANS

BBC  
MUSIC



NEW YORK  
PUBLIC  
RADIO

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n p r music

The Washington Post





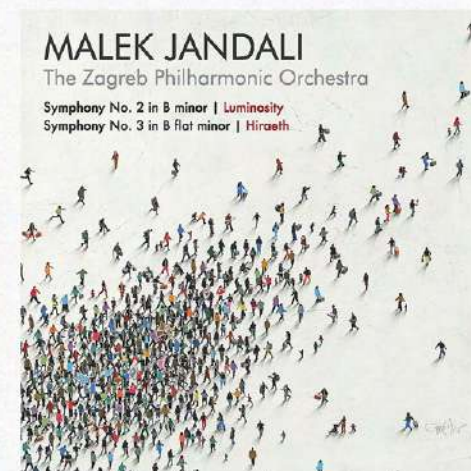
# ALBUMS



SYRIAN SYMPHONY



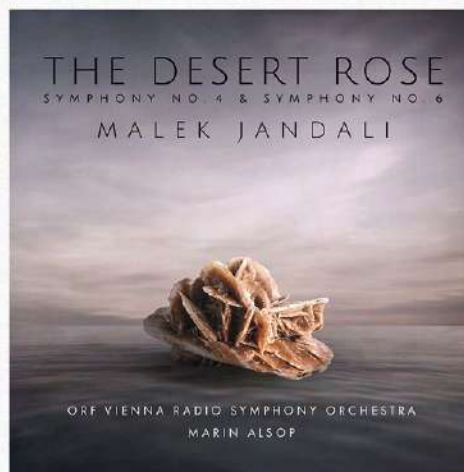
SOHO



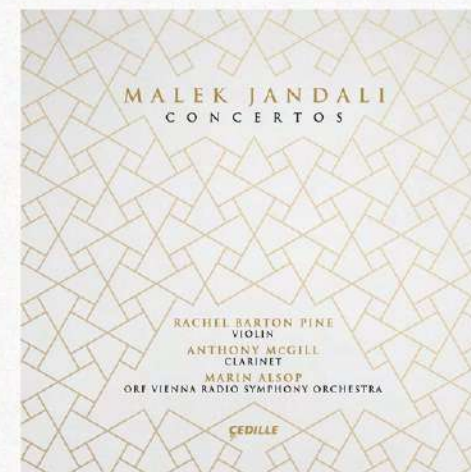
HIRAETH



PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1



THE DESERT ROSE



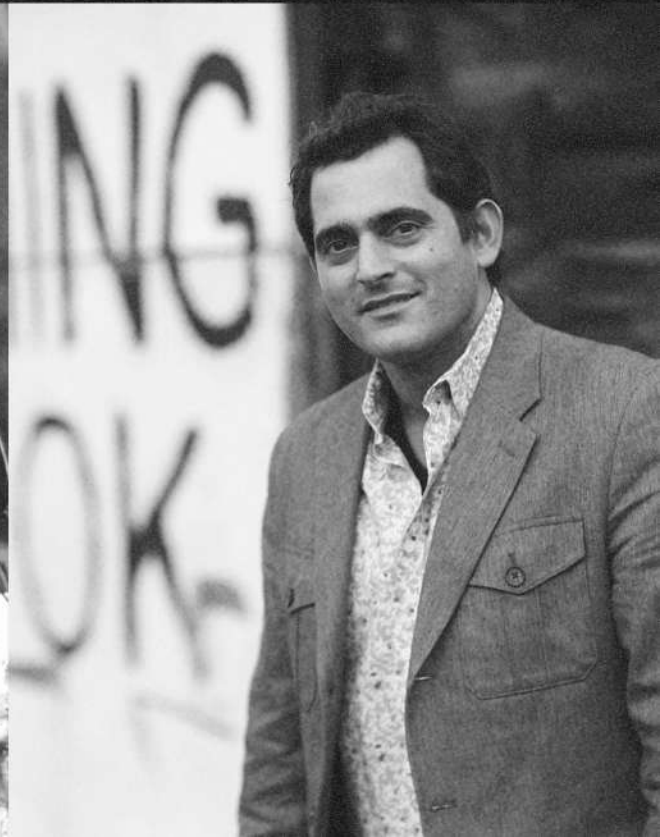
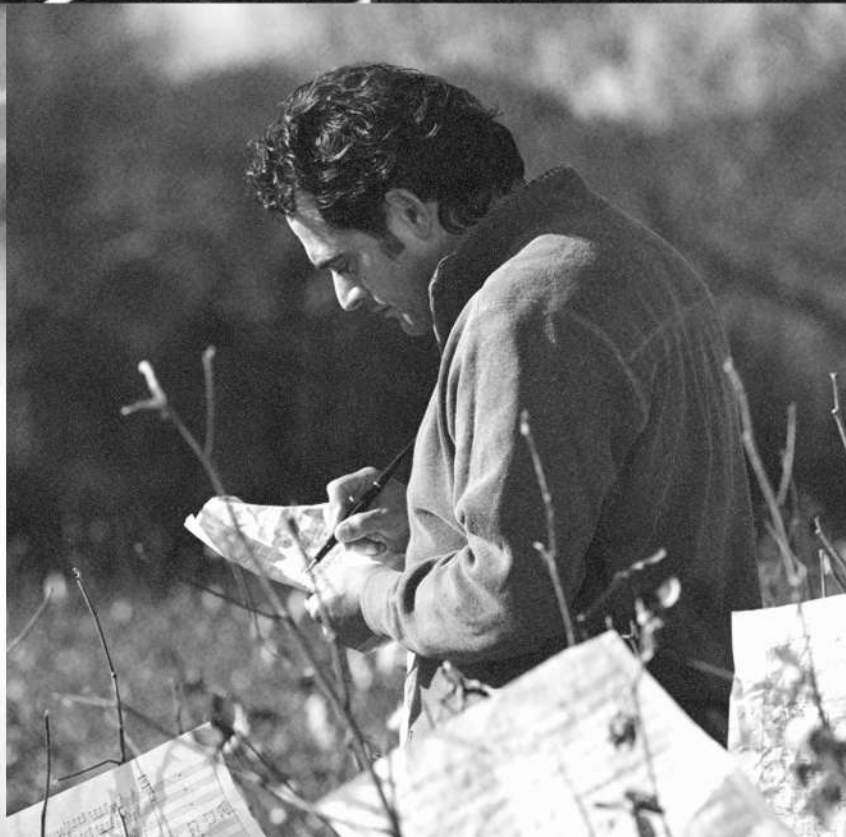
CONCERTOS





# PHOTOS

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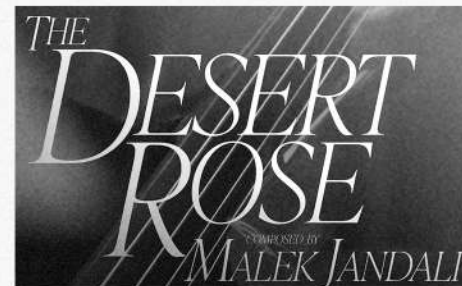
# VIDEOS



SYMPHONIC WORKS



SYMPHONY NO. 3



SYM. NO. 6 THE DESERT ROSE



VIOLIN CONCERTO



CLARINET CONCERTO



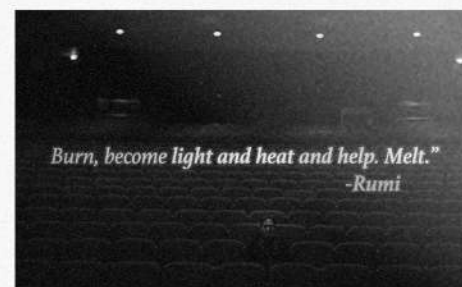
VIOLA CONCERTO



PHOENIX IN EXILE



SYMPHONIC DANCES



A CANDLE





TEDX TALK



SYDNEY IDEAS FORUM



HARVARD UNIVERSITY



SKOLL WORLD FORUM | OXFORD



WISE



FIFA WORLD CUP 2022



DOHA DEBATE | GEORGETOWN



ASPEN IDEAS



PIANOS FOR PEACE



# LETTER FROM THE COMPOSER

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In my musical journey I have had the opportunity to learn from a wealth of different musical voices – from the immense compassion and grace of Beethoven's piano sonatas, to the ancient music of Ugarit, to the rich folk melodies and interesting rhythms of my homeland Syria.

Since its inception in our great land, music has become a cultural phenomenon. It is something people relate to on emotional, instinctive, intellectual, and many other levels. It has affected me greatly as well and instilled in me a desire to unite the primal with the contemporary and to create music that tugs at the heart and mind.

These symphonic works are an attempt to present and preserve the rich musical heritage of my homeland Syria. I have always felt that music eloquently expresses the inherent connection between the past and the present. In all cultures throughout history, it has served as a humanizing force, which is common to all. My music is dedicated to you, the listener. May you find harmony and peace.

*Malek Jandali*

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**Soul b Music**

PianosForPeace.org

