250 Words Biography

MALEK JANDALI

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). His workshavebeen commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading orchestras and distinguished soloists around the world. His “**deeply enigmatic**” music *(Gramophone*) with “**heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, clever transitions and creative textures**” (*American Record Guide*) includes eight symphonies, seven concertos, four string quartets, chamber music, and his upcoming opera, *The Square.*

His works engage philosophical themes and integrate Arabic *maqams* with persuasive ingenuity, echoing UNESCO’s call to preserve the rich cultural heritage of his homeland, Syria. Marin Alsop states, “**Jandali belongs among the superb composer poets of our time—a meaningful voice of quite astonishing, almost unearthly beauty.**” He has produced ten lauded albums 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, featured on his album *Echoes from Ugarit*.

He is composer-in-residence at Queens University of Charlotte and at Qatar Museums, and is the founder and CEO of the nonprofit organization Pianos for Peace. 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.



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