

MALEK JANDALI

# SYRIAN SYMPHONY FOR PEACE

NATIONAL REFUGEE WEEK IN AUSTRALIA | 18-25 JUNE 2017

مالك جندلي





WE ARE  
WITNESSING  
THE FALL OF  
HUMANITY.

MALEK JANDALI

Syrian refugees arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos after making the perilous crossing from Turkey - © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



# COMPOSER MALEK JANDALI RELEASES HIS "SYRIAN SYMPHONY" AT CARNEGIE HALL

MIRIAM AWADALLAH WRITES

JANDALI'S DEBUT AT CARNEGIE HALL in January 2015 will feature his symphony that was defiantly written in response to the chaos that enveloped his homeland and has forced millions of families, including his own, into exile. As this visionary sets foot on the hallowed stage, he represents a new class of creative Syrian composers who have not disappeared into the rubble and refuse to be deterred.

This is what makes his music crucial—it highlights the human face of a nation that has been destroyed by a brutal dictatorship and war. "Syrians just want to live in peace, all they want is peace and to stop the war that has been launched on them," he tells me in an interview after one of his weekly rehearsals in New York City. Ultimately, Jandali hopes that his Carnegie Hall performance will show the world the beauty of Syria despite all of the horrifying atrocities taking place.

The significance of Jandali's efforts is not to be understated. The symbolism of a symphony that calls for unity for the sake of peace at this juncture in time is critical. Jandali strongly believes in the soft power of music. It's not the first time that he has grasped this concept and used it to call for peace in his homeland. "I will always believe that the power of the people is much stronger than the people in power," Jandali

expounded. It is this very same belief that led him to compose "Syrian Symphony" in order to tell the story of the Syrian people in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and all the beautiful cities on the ancient Silk Road. In what appears to be one of the darkest times in modern Arab history, Jandali strives to bring a sense of dignity and pride back to his people.

Born on Christmas day in Germany, Jandali moved to Homs, Syria at a young age. He moved to the United States shortly after finishing high school in order to pursue his advanced studies in music. "I arrived to the US in July, 1994 on a full scholarship to study piano and I remember the first time I visited New York City and stepped into Carnegie Hall. The first vinyl record I ever owned was one of Schubert's symphonies with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. I never imagined that only 23 years later I would hear my own works with the same orchestra." Among his many achievements and accolades, this month Jandali was selected as a Gold Medal winner by the Global Music Awards for his album "Emessa – Homs".

Jandali's talent has granted him the gift of rising global fame. And yet, one constant has always remained in his music and life—the connection he feels to his homeland—a country that boasts six UNESCO World Heritage sites. Today, these striking contributions to human civilization face imminent destruction—the culture of Syria is at risk.

Jandali's Syrian identity is the common denominator to his art. From the titles to his albums and compositions, to the themes and modes echoing throughout his pieces, the history and vibrant culture of his homeland captivates the ears of the listener. Considering Jandali's strong connection, it is clear why he feels so compelled to preserve

this culture through his music. It is the legacy of his ancestors in Ugarit, who invented both the alphabet and music notation, marking a pivotal change in humankind and history. Excavated in the 1950s and transcribed in 1972 by Professor Anne Kilmer, the clay tablets of Ugarit have the oldest pieces of musical notation inscribed across them. Jandali builds on the traditions of his ancestors in Ugarit with his unique blend of musical genres.

As a composer endowed with flair, versatility and ingenuity, Jandali seeks to evoke empathy where there is none. And in the process he endeavors to infuse more life in the classical music genre itself. In his book "The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century," music critic Alex Ross writes, "Classical music is stereotyped as an art of the dead, a repertory that begins with Bach and terminates with Mahler and Puccini." Listening to "Echoes from Ugarit," you can feel the immense presence of Bach and Mozart slowly walking amidst a thin fog of sorrow emanating from the old alleys of Syria's ancient cities. A mixture of sorrow and hope.

What distinguishes Jandali from other artists is his constant commitment to children. In 2013 he launched the "Voice of the Free Syrian Children" world tour. From Vienna, London, to Stockholm and Madrid with the presence of Queen Sofia of Spain, the project aimed to raise awareness and much needed humanitarian aid for the suffering Syrian children. With the latest UNICEF report indicating that 7.2 million Syrian children are affected by the country's waging war, their plight is as pressing as ever. Now, he has launched an international competition that will give a young, aspiring musician the chance to win a monetary prize plus personal recognition at one of Jandali's concerts. 23 immensely talented

applicants from around the world applied and the winner will be announced on December 20th. His humanity echoes not only throughout his music, but also his big heart

Looking to the title of one of Jandali's soon to be released compositions, "Phoenix in Exile," recorded in London with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, one grasps a sense of his ultimate aspirations for Syria. Just as the mythological bird is cyclically reborn from the ashes of its predecessor, he believes that beauty will be born again in Syria. The phoenix will fly once more, despite the destruction overpowering its magnificence and so will the Syrian people. With a jolt by Jandali's music, the revival is more likely.

SOURCE AN-AHAR TV, 16 DECEMBER 2015

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“THIS IS WHAT MAKES HIS MUSIC CRUCIAL—IT HIGHLIGHTS THE HUMAN FACE OF A NATION THAT HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY A BRUTAL DICTATORSHIP AND WAR.”

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# COMPOSER PIANIST

“A MAJOR NEW ADDITION TO THE 21ST CENTURY  
SYMPHONIC LITERATURE.”

FANFARE MAGAZINE

**B**ORN IN GERMANY, MALEK began his piano studies at the age of four. He moved to the United States at the age of eighteen after receiving a full scholarship to pursue his advanced studies in music. Hailed by BBC WorldNews as “an acclaimed pianist”, his music has been described as “moving and thought provoking” by Bob Stevenson of NPR.

His works have been performed by several leading orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Stockholm Solister Chamber Orchestra. Jandali’s piano and orchestra music is hailed as “hauntingly beautiful” by The Stream AJ America. His most recent symphony was described by Thomas Ludwig of the LSO as a “new symphonic mastery that was clearly not brought about only by a reaction to contemporary events, but also by sustained contact with the well-springs of polyphonic elegant music.”

Jandali’s hit album “Echoes from Ugarit” was recorded in Moscow with The Russian Philharmonic Orchestra and released in 2008. It includes original compositions based on the oldest music notation in the world discovered on a clay tablet in the ancient Mediterranean city of Ugarit, Syria. His 2012 album “Emessa” has received critical acclaim in major newspapers and was described as “inspiring” by the *Huffington Post*.

Jandali’s diverse career remains truly international, as he continues to captivate audiences in concerts at such prestigious venues as the Kennedy Center, Wiener Konzerthaus, Stockholm Konserthuset and the National Auditorium in Madrid with the Queen of Spain in attendance. He recently performed at the Skoll World Forum at Oxford and performed at the world premiere of his *Hiraeth Symphony* with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra. He is currently composing his first Opera.

Malek currently resides in New York City and is a member of The Recording Academy and The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). His music is published by Soul b Music and can be found on iTunes, CD Baby, Amazon and at Virgin Megastores worldwide.

#### LINKEDIN PROFILE

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/malekjandali>

“JANDALI’S MUSIC IS GORGEOUS, HAUNTING, YEARNING AND FULL OF HOPE, WITH A PAIN MORE PERSONAL THAN THAT OF TCHAIKOVSKY OR RACHMANINOV.”

DAVID FIRMAN, CONDUCTOR ROYAL  
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



**Award-Winning Composer & Pianist |  
Virgin Artist Producer | Human Rights  
and Peace Activist | Lecturer | Speaker**

**Concert Pianist at Royal  
Philharmonic Orchestra**

2011 - Present (5 years)  
Recording Artist

**Composer & Pianist at Virgin**

1998 - Present (18 years)

**Education**

New York University  
Film Music

Queens University of Charlotte  
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Music

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Piano Performance - Composition

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Echoes from Ugarit**

Soul b Music  
Genre: Classical: Orchestral  
Release Date: 2008

*Original Piano & Orchestra music based  
on the oldest music notation in the world  
(Ugarit, Syria 3400 B.C.) combining Oriental  
melodies and Arabic modes with the  
Western symphony orchestra.*

**Watani Ana - I am my Homeland**

Soul b Music  
Genre: World: Middle East Contemporary  
Release Date: 2011

*Watani Ana (I am my Homeland) is a song  
composed and arranged by Malek Jandali  
featuring the vocals of Salma Habib & Ali  
Waad, Martin Gueorguiev on Cello. This  
Patriotic and moving song is inspired by  
and dedicated to Freedom, Liberty and  
Justice for all.*

**Emessa - (Homs)**

Soul b Music  
Release Date: 2012  
Genre: World: Middle East Contemporary

*Original Piano & Orchestra music  
combining Oriental melodies, Arabic modes,  
and Syrian rhythms with the western  
symphony orchestra.*

**Syria Anthem of the Free**

Soul b Music  
Genre: Classical: Choral Music  
Release Date: March 10, 2013

*The symphony orchestra with a full choir  
in an original work called Syria: Anthem of  
the Free.*

**The Moonlight**

Soul b Music  
Genre: World: Middle East Traditional  
Release Date: 2014  
*The Moonlight is an original symphonic  
work for piano and orchestra based on one  
of the oldest songs in Islamic culture, Tala  
Al Badru Alayna, dating back more than  
1400 years.*

**Syrian Symphony**

Soul b Music  
Genre: Classical: Symphony  
Release Date: October 10, 2014  
World Premiere, Carnegie Hall January 2015

*Original Piano and Orchestra compositions  
and a four-movement classical symphony  
combining Oriental melodies, Arabic  
modes, and Syrian rhythms with the Royal  
Philharmonic Orchestra.*

**SoHo**

Soul b Music  
Genre: World: World Traditions  
Release Date: 2015

*From the Silk Road to Manhattan's Little  
Syria to the cobblestone streets of SoHo,  
this album is a continuation of Malek  
Jandali's musical journey featuring the  
art of Taqasim and combining the Eastern  
sounds of oud with the Western harmonies  
of piano and cello. All net proceeds from the  
sale of this album to benefit humanitarian  
aid for Syrian children.*

**Hiraeth**

Soul b Music  
Genre: Classical: Symphony  
Release Date: November 2016  
World Premiere Carnegie Hall, February 2016  
Two major symphonic works integrating  
ancient Syrian melodies in Western  
orchestra form to revive the music of  
Aleppo and preserve the rich heritage of  
Syria.

**HONORS & AWARDS**

1988 First Prize in The National Young  
Artists Competition  
1995 North Carolina School of the Arts -  
Piano Scholarship  
1995 Carolyn G. McMahon Queens College  
Scholarship  
1996 The Stegner Foundation for the Arts  
Fellowship  
1997 Queens College Outstanding Musical  
Performer Award  
2005 National Victory Register Award  
2007 Bronze Centurion National Award  
2008 Echoes from Ugarit The first  
arrangement of the oldest music notation  
in the world  
2011 Freedom of Expression Award - CAIR  
Los Angeles and Senator of CA  
2012 Culture and Arts Achievement Award,  
NAAP New York City  
2013 GUSI International Peace Prize -  
Performing Arts Category  
2013 Center of the Study of Genocide and  
Human Rights - Rutgers University  
2014 The 100 Most Influential GA Muslims  
Award  
2014 Gold Winner Global Music Awards  
2015 Global Music Humanitarian Award  
2015 Great Immigrant by The Carnegie  
Corporation of New York

**DISCOVER MORE AT MALEKJANDALI.COM**





EVERYTHING  
WILL BE OK

WHEN THE WORLD  
IS DARK WE MUST BE  
THE LIGHT OF PEACE  
IN THE WORLD.

MALEK JANDALI

“My upcoming project is a Syrian Symphony, with four movements, full orchestra, close to 60 minutes of music. It is going to be a major symphony and it is almost finished. Most of the themes and motives are from the streets of Syria, from the revolution. At a later stage, I would like to introduce it to big orchestras and venues around the world. I see it as my duty to present the nobility of this revolution in some of the most respected places on earth. Because that’s what art is: it is soft power.”

MALEK JANDALI DECEMBER 2014

VISION







# REVIEWS

*"A Symphony for humanity."*

**THE SWEDISH DAILY**

*"Jandali's music is gorgeous, haunting, yearning and full of hope, with a pain more personal than that of Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninov."*

**DAVID FIRMAN, CONDUCTOR ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

*"Moving and thought provoking."*

**NPR**

*"Heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, clever transitions and creative textures.."*

**AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE**

*"As a composer endowed with flair, versatility and ingenuity, Jandali seeks to evoke empathy where there is none."*

**MIRIAM AWADALLAH**

*"A world-renowned composer and acclaimed pianist."*

**BBC WORLD NEWS**

*"Jandali's music tells a story of Syria beyond the politics. It tells the story of the humanity, healing the psychological wounds of the Syrian people."*

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**

*"A major new new addition to the 21st Century's symphonic literature."*

**FANFARE MAGAZINE**



A NEW SYMPHONIC  
MASTERY THAT WAS  
CLEARLY NOT BROUGHT  
ABOUT ONLY BY A REACTION  
TO CONTEMPORARY EVENTS,  
BUT ALSO BY SUSTAINED  
CONTACT WITH THE WELL-  
SPRINGS OF POLYPHONIC  
ELEGANT MUSIC.

**THOMAS LUDWIG - LSO**



# MOHAMED A. ALSIADI

**M**OHAMED ABDULRAHIM ALSIADI RECEIVED HIS B.A. from the Damascus Music Conservatory, where he specialized in oud performance and conducting. He studied with renowned oudist Nadim Al Darwish, the son of composer and scholar Ali Al Darwish, for many years. He performs on an Iraqi oud made by the oud master Yaroub Mohammed Fadel. A regular guest of international festivals both as a soloist and chamber musician, Alsiadi has recently performed at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, the national auditorium in Madrid, the historic Nidaros Cathedral in Norway, GUST University in Kuwait, and Merkin Hall in New York City. Other highlights include his debuts at Vienna Konzerthaus in 2012 and Carnegie Hall in 2015 with The Malek Jandali Trio. Alsiadi is particularly excited to be working with composer and pianist Malek Jandali in recording his new album. Alsiadi has also directed several concert series and festivals on Arabic music, and he has developed an extensive and exceptionally varied catalogue of Arabic music recordings. At various international conferences, he has presented research on song forms central to Middle Eastern music, namely Arabic-sung poetry called qasida, and the Aleppian Wasla, a song-form that is one of the foundations of Syrian songs. Alsiadi moved from Aleppo, Syria to New York City in 1996, becoming a professor of Arabic Language, Literature and Culture. He is currently the lead



professor and director for the Arabic studies program at Fordham University, and he is the chair of the US-MidEast program at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University. He is finalizing his doctorate in American Studies at Rutgers University and his research interests include Arab-American relations; the impact of Mideast-West relations on contemporary Arabic music and literature; and the diaspora of the Aleppian Wasla in the West. Over the last two decades, he has provided academic leadership, engaged in discussions and offered advice and support to fellow Syrians on civic society, academia and human rights. Alsiadi has been interviewed and been an analyst on TV and radio for a wide range of media sources including PBS, HuffPost LIVE, Al Jazeera and ABC. Each year, Alsiadi supports concerts for young audiences, and his performance groups offer master classes and other performance opportunities for our public schools and universities. Abdulrahim is a dedicated professor committed to educating our youth about Middle Eastern chamber music and introducing students to the joys of the Aleppian Wasla, a traditional genre of Arab music. Alsiadi currently serves on the faculty of Rutgers University and Fordham University in New York City and teaches master classes in the U.S. and abroad. SOURCE WWW.ALSIADI.COM



# SOHO

MALEK JANDALI TRIO

## MOHAMED A. ALSIADI WRITES

THE MUSIC OF MALEK JANDALI combines the worlds of east and west. His music comes at a time when melodies are expected to liberate us from the gravity of modern forces, restrained in a narrow philosophy of entertainment in an era of devastating wars and disasters. His compositions seek to bring us back to a humanity that moves our east-west world towards a center where time and space do not exist, and we become one group of sensations with a human unity sought from the beginning of time. The elements of these works were formed thousands of years ago, from bits and pieces of melodies that were developed into a rich sound between the oud, cello, and piano. The opulent sounds of Malek Jandali's trio interact with a force that takes us seamlessly from the Silk Road, especially Aleppo, Syria to the contemporary west. The name of this album, SoHo, is especially significant: Malek transposes the collective Syrian memory to SoHo - a place that abounds in human diversity and a multiplicity of personal, cultural, and artistic expressions. SoHo becomes a symbol of yearned-for open spaces for those who have been forcibly

displaced from Syria. Collaborating with composer and pianist Malek Jandali on this album, my taqasim on the oud highlight the charm of the eastern maqam, the system of melodic modes used in traditional Arabic music, which continues to thrive in Arab rituals, celebrations, and events. I inherited the art of musical maqams on the oud from my teacher, Sheikh Nadim Ali Darwish, in Aleppo and continue in my attempts to perfect their authentic performance. Now my oud striking technique is freed from the eastern tradition to perform the revolutionary works of Malek Jandali.

*Coordinator of the Arabic Language and Cultural Studies Program,  
Fordham University*

*Newark Director of U.S. Mid-East Program, Centre for the Study of Genocide,  
Conflict Resolution and Human Rights, Rutgers University*

SOURCE [WWW.ALSIADI.COM](http://WWW.ALSIADI.COM)



April 2016

**Malek Jandali Trio Live - Poem Eternal - Oxford University New Theatre**

**WATCH** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfXx4SKjg7o>





# PRESS



MALEK JANDALI LIVE PERFORMANCE  
SKOLL WORLD FORUM, OXFORD APRIL 2016

**An-Ahar TV, Composer Malek Jandali releases his "Syrian Symphony" at Carnegie Hall**, Miriam Awadallah, 16 December 2015, See <http://en.annahar.com/article/198521-composer-malek-jandali-releases-his-syrian-symphony-at-carnegie-hall>

**CBC Radio, Syrian composer Malek Jandali on Art and Creative Defiance**, 6 August 2015, See <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/q/schedule-for-thursday-august-6-2015-1.3181153/syrian-composer-malek-jandali-on-art-and-creative-defiance-1.3181162>

**Daily Camera, Syrian-American Malek Jandali promotes peace through music**, Kelly Dean Hansen, 27 September 2014, See [http://www.dailycamera.com/entertainment/ci\\_26613716/malek-jandali-syrian-american-composer-pianist-promotes-peace-music](http://www.dailycamera.com/entertainment/ci_26613716/malek-jandali-syrian-american-composer-pianist-promotes-peace-music)

**Guardian, Malek Jandali: 'I thought: what can I do? How can I help? All I have is music'**, Raya Jalabi, 26 October, 2016, See <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/25/malek-jandali-syrian-composer-music>

**Gulf News, Pianist looks to Syria's musical past to spread peace, News, MENA**, 20 May 2015, See <http://gulfnews.com/news/mena/syria/pianist-looks-to-syria-s-musical-past-to-spread-peace-1.1518804>

**HuffPost, Live Interview Malek Jandali – 'The Voice of the Free Syrian Children'**: 6 July, 2014, See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUJg-3PPUgQ>

**Huffington Post, From Syria to SoHo: The Message of the Malek Jandali Trio**, See [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hamzah-raza/from-syria-to-soho-the-me\\_b\\_9155858.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hamzah-raza/from-syria-to-soho-the-me_b_9155858.html)

**Syria Deeply, The Interview: Malek Jandali, Patrick Hilsman**, 9 March 2013, See <https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/articles/2013/03/09/the-interview-malek-jandali/>

**Syria Untold**, 8 April, 2014, See <http://www.syriauntold.com/en/2013/08/we-need-freedom-for-true-art-interview-with-syrian-pianist-malek-jandali/>

**Malek Jandali Official, Freedom Qashoush Symphony, YouTube**, 10 February 2012, See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax5ck0fzyaU>

**Malek Jandali Press Soundcloud, PRI The World Interview with Malek Jandali**, 3 September 2014, Listen <https://m.soundcloud.com/malek-jandali-press/pri-the-world-interview-with-composer-and-pianist-malek-jandali>

**Malek Jandali Trio at AFTP Gala 2013**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVvqerzPbcY>

**National Geographic, Proof: Notes for my Homeland: A Composers Passion ignited by Conflict**, 27 January 2015, See <http://proof.nationalgeographic.com/2015/01/27/the-power-and-passion-of-composer-malek-jandali/#comment-721446>

**Qantara, 'We are witnessing the fall of humanity'**, Martina Sabra, 13 September 2012, See <http://en.qantara.de/content/interview-with-the-syrian-composer-pianist-malek-jandali-we-are-witnessing-the-fall-of>

**The Atlantic, Symphony for a Fallen Syria**, 9 July 2015, See <http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/396878/syria-symphony/>





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# PIANOS FOR PEACE

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION WITH CONSCIENCE

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HUMANITY  
BEAUTY  
TRUTH

ONE DAY, RIGHT  
THERE IN THIS  
BEAUTIFUL  
AMPHITHEATER  
IN #SYRIA, WE'LL  
JOIN TOGETHER IN  
#SYRIANSYMPHONY  
FOR PEACE.

MALEK JANDALI

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