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## **DICKRAN ATAMIAN** **PIANIST**

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# **DICKRAN ATAMIAN**

## **PIANIST**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Dickran Atamian has enjoyed a career that has spanned a quarter-century and covered four continents. He has established himself as a pianist of dazzling style, meaningful and exquisite musical insights, incomparable mercurial gifts, and an unmatched visceral excitement. In the year 2000, he celebrates his 25th season as First Prize winner of the 50th Anniversary Naumburg International Piano Competition held at Carnegie Hall. Additional award distinctions include First Prize in the International Recording Competition, a Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for Music Prize and Prize-Winner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition.

Since his debut with the Phoenix Symphony at age 11, he has stunned sold-out audiences in such places as Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Town Hall, and Carnegie Hall in New York, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, Symphony Hall in Boston, Salle Gaveau in Paris, Town Hall in Sidney and the Great Hall in Moscow. He has played hundreds of concerts with many of America's most important orchestral ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, and the Boston Pops. Other orchestral appearances include the Antwerp Sinfonia, Leningrad Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, and the Royal Philharmonic. He also has appeared at many U.S. music festivals including Aspen, Marlboro and Ravinia. Atamian's orchestral tours have included performances under the direction of maestros Lorin Maazel, Eduardo Mata, David Zinman, James DePriest, Victor Alessandro, Werner Torkanowsky, Gustav Meier, and Gerard Schwarz.

Since his arrival on the international music scene in 1975, Atamian's career has been one of singular achievements. In 1979, he gave the world premiere of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring for solo piano at Carnegie Hall, followed by its world television premiere on PBS (one of five recital specials voted "Best of PBS" in 1981) and its world premiere recording for RCA Red Seal (the first digital solo piano recording ever made). The PBS series was widely seen nationally and in syndication. In 1977, Atamian gave one of only two recitals performed in celebration of the Carter Inaugural Events. Finally, he created, performed in, and served as Artistic Director for several music festivals in Texas and Arizona from 1979 to 1991, including the Austin Four Seasons Music Festival and the Colly Soleri Music Center at Arcosanti.

# **DICKRAN ATAMIAN**

## **PIANIST BIOGRAPHY**

Atamian has recordings with the RCA Red Seal, Lyra House, Ltd., and Delos International labels. They have received world-wide acclaim from numerous major newspapers and periodicals. His orchestral debut on Delos includes Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto and the Khatchaturian Piano Concerto with Gerard Schwarz conducting the Seattle Symphony. Atamian's many solo CD recordings include an all-Chopin disc, an all-Beethoven recording and an all-Russian album. Mr. Atamian's recording of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring drew the following praise from the San Francisco Examiner: "These remain 31 of the most exciting minutes of piano playing ever recorded."

Awards besides the Naumburg victory include First Prize in the International Recording Competition, a Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for music prize and prize-winner in the William Kapell International Piano Competition.

Mr. Atamian's recent and upcoming engagements include the Phoenix Symphony, San Diego Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica de Castilla y Leon, Edmonton Symphony, Anchorage Symphony, Austin Symphony, Memphis Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Long Beach Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Shanghai Broadcast Orchestra and the National Orchestra of China in Beijing.

Mr. Atamian is married and has two children. He is an avid baseball fan, a gourmet Armenian cook, and collects Lincoln Memorabilia.

# DICKRAN ATAMIAN

PIANIST

## BIOGRAPHY

### Career Highlights

Dickran Atamian burst forth on the international musical scene when, in 1975, he won First Prize at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Naumburg Piano Competition in New York City. Rave reviews attested to his insightful style and dazzling technique and established him in New York's critical circles as an artist of great stature.

#### Major Orchestra Engagements:

Cleveland Orchestra  
 Detroit Symphony Orchestra  
 Phoenix Symphony  
 Seattle Symphony  
 Boston Pops  
 New York Philharmonic  
 Honolulu Symphony  
 Royal Philharmonic  
 San Diego Symphony

Shanghai Broadcast Orchestra  
 San Antonio Symphony  
 National Orchestra of China

#### Major Recital Engagements:

In New York City:  
 Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall  
 Avery Fisher Hall  
 92<sup>nd</sup> Street "Y"  
 Town Hall  
 Carnegie Hall

Kennedy Center, Washington D.C  
 Orchestra Hall, Chicago  
 Davies Hall & Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

The Philadelphia Performing Arts Society-  
 Piano Series (Drexel)  
 The Library of Congress

Music Festivals:  
 Marlboro  
 Aspen  
 Ravinia

Salle Gaveau, Paris  
 Town Hall, Sydney  
*Grady Gammage Auditorium, Phoenix*

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
**CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

"This was daredevil playing on a large scale and it generated a great deal of sheer visceral excitement."

*The New York Times*

"This was the kind of playing that makes a piano seem to be as powerful as a whole symphony orchestra."

*The New York Post*

"Mr. Atamian created an illusion of intimacy, he never forced his tone or broke the scale of the music."

*The New Yorker*

"Atamian was impressive in transitional measures, bridging different moods smoothly and subtly.....not many pianists can."

*The New York Times*

"He created sounds that seemingly floated out of the piano."

*The New York Times*

"A pianist with a giant technique and an acute musical sensibility."

*Musical America*

"The pianist evoked a beautiful purling tone, some exquisite legato effects and a general aura of poetic mystery."

*The New York Times*

"His technique conquers all difficulties hurled in its path."

*The Chicago Tribune*

"He found a deeper vein of poetry that bespoke a degree of expressive control rare in a pianist so young."

*The Chicago Tribune*

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
**CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

"The music was conceived on a scale as large as Atamian's dynamic contrasts, and flung at the audience in a sustained burst of powerhouse pianism."

*The Chicago Tribune*

"ATAMIAN DRIVEN, DIZZYING" (headline)

*The Boston Globe*

"Atamian showed his penchant for expansive romantic feeling, brought out by an articulation so bright and compelling that it commanded attention at every instant, involving the listener as an active participant in his own artistry."

*The Philadelphia Bulletin*

"Swept away by sheer energy, momentum, and the spirited physically-involved force of his interpretation."

*The Philadelphia Bulletin*

"Atamian displayed remarkable emotional range, a sense of delicacy and nuance and real individuality in the bargain."

*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"Atamian's performance was substantial, electric and mature."

*The Phoenix Gazette*

"Atamian's fusion of fire and poetry is a rare musical happening."

*The Austin American Statesman*

"The music he drew from his Baldwin was clean, with lots of rippling octaves and cascading double thirds.

*The Detroit Free Press*

"He has technique to burn."

*The Detroit Free Press*

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
**CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

"He does not merely play the piano; he performs."

*The Los Angeles Times*

"Through all the overtly heroic pianism, musical ends remain clearly in hearing, refocused with incisive power."

*The Los Angeles Times*

"What musical connoisseurs in the East have been saying about Dickran Atamian is true. He is a brilliant pianist. His brilliance doesn't show itself merely in mechanical skills but in a natural, rich sense of musical beauty."

*The San Francisco Chronicle*

"Such playing comes only from a talent of the highest pianistic level."

*The San Francisco Examiner*

"His rendition of Prokofiev's music was in a word, stunning."

*The Tampa Times*

"His technique is astounding. He commands the keyboard from end to end with dazzling skill, yet in quiet interludes his touch becomes feather soft, his expression romantic and beautifully controlled."

*The Clearwater Sun*

"It was one of those times when an audience senses it's witnessing a discovery, an unbelievable talent it can't wait to hear again."

*The Clearwater Sun*

“From the moment he hit the keys, it was apparent that pianist Dickran Atamian intended to create something beyond the mere notes; he hammered at his instrument until he reached the heart of the music and delivered a performance of rare intensity. Atamian demonstrated imperial and sure attacks. He has skill that is exalted in color and rhythm. Atamian was like a tiger set loose! He has great power and rapidity – magnificent muscularity with heaven-storming octaves. His feeling for this concerto was akin to a volcano. The audience roared approval.”

*The Sunday Chieftain 11/10/03*

“From the moment he hit the keys, it was apparent that pianist Dickran Atamian intended to create something beyond the mere notes; he hammered at his instrument until he reached the heart of the music and delivered a performance of rare intensity. Rather than coaxing the sound from the instrument like many musicians, Atamian seemed to reach beyond the mere working of the keys, as if he wanted to rip the strings right out of the case for greater expression. It wasn't grace, it wasn't elegance; it was pure energy, and it served Khatchaturian's great piano concerto as though it were the composer himself performing. Atamian swung his left foot casually under the bench as he swayed to his music. He ripped through brutally difficult passages as effortlessly as if he were taking a sip of water. His ease at the keyboard seemed to derive from an inner strength; it's just notes and keys after all. We're beyond that here.”

*Fresno Bee 11/16/03*

"His delicacy was exquisite, but his rhythmic scales, glissandos, octaves and pounding chords were brilliant, played with all the speed and clarity that the music requires."

*The St. Petersburg Times*

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
**CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

"A huge performance with some passages of almost literally hair-raising brilliance."

*The Miami Herald*

"Atamian played with abounding virtuosity, a sweeping sense of security and tremendous power."

*The Miami Herald*

"His technique is massive, and encompasses more than the talent to wring curly clusters of notes from the keyboard. It also includes a flexible touch that can turn a simple melody into a series of elegant water droplets."

*The Austin American Statesman*

"Atamian blended percussive power and lyrical expansiveness in a spellbinding performance."

*The Kansas City Star*

"Atamian is destined to rank among the most important pianists of his generation."

*The Kansas City Star*

"Atamian ran with this concerto like an athlete sprinting to the finish yet shaped all three movements with mature intelligence."

*The Omaha World Herald*

"He was firmly in command and an artistic force to be reckoned with."

*Kitchener-Waterloo Record*

"Not only does he possess a colossal keyboard technique, but along with it a degree of musical sensitivity rare in pianists of any age."

*The Atlanta Journal*

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***CONCERTO REPERTOIRE***

Bach	Concerto in d
Barber	Concerto
Bartok	Concerto No. 3
Beethoven	*Concerto No. 1 in C Concerto No. 2 in B-Flat *Concerto No. 3 in c Concerto No. 4 in G *Concerto No. 5 in E-Flat Choral Fantasy Triple Concerto
Brahms	*Concerto No. 1 in d *Concerto No. 2 in B-Flat
Chopin	Concerto No. 1 in e
Dalapiccola	Concerto
Debussy	Fantasia
Frank	Symphonic Variations
Gonzalez (Luis Jorge)	Piano Concerto World Premiere 2003-04
Grieg	*Concerto
Keats	Concerto
Khatchaturian	*Concerto
Liszt	Totentantz Concerto No. 1 in E-Flat *Concerto No. 2 in A
Mendelssohn	Concerto No. 1 in g *Concerto No. 2 in d

Mozart	Concerto No. 9, K. 271 *Concerto No. 10, K. 365 (Double) *Concerto No. 12, K. 414 *Concerto No. 14, K. 449 Concerto No. 17, K. 453 Concerto No. 19, K. 459 *Concerto No. 20, K. 466 Concerto No. 21, K. 471 *Concerto No. 23, K. 488 Concerto No. 24, K. 491 Concerto No. 25, K. 503
Prokofiev	Concerto No. 2 in g *Concerto No. 3 in c
Rachmaninoff	Concerto No. 2 in c Concerto No. 3 in d
Ravel	*Concerto in G Concerto for Left Hand
Saint-Saens	*Concerto No. 2 in g Concerto No. 4 in c
Schumann	Concerto in a
Scrabin	Concerto in F-Sharp
Tchaikovsky	*Concerto No. 1 in B-Flat
Yardumian	Passacaglia, Recitative and Fugue

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***RECENT ENGAGEMENTS***

Alabama Symphony

Prokofiev Concerto No. 3

January 29, 30 1998

Long Beach Symphony Orchestra (CA)

Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2

June 6, 1998

Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symp (NC)

Prokofiev Concerto No. 3

September 12, 13, 15 1998

Sun Cities Symph. of the West Valley (AZ)

Prokofiev Concerto No. 3

October 17, 18 1998

Brevard Symphony Orchestra (FL)

Prokofiev Concerto No. 3

October 24, 1998

Orquesta Sinfonica De Castilla Y Leon (Spain)

Khatchaturian Concerto

November 4 - 6, 1998

Knoxville Symphony Orchestra (TN)

Brahms Concerto No. 1

November 19, 20 1998

Fort Wayne Philharmonic

Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2

January 9, 1999

Tucson Symphony Orchestra (AZ)

Grieg Concerto

January 21, 22, 24 1999

Midland-Odessa Symphony (TX)

Brahms Concerto No. 1

January 30, 1999

Quad City Symphony Orchestra

Brahms Concerto No. 1

March 5, 1999

Symphony of the Americas (FL)

Beethoven Concerto No. 3

March 18, 19, 21, 22 1999

Macon Symphony Orchestra

Brahms Concerto No. 1

March 27, 1999

Bozeman Symphony Orchestra

Prokofiev Concerto No. 1

April 10, 1999

Boulder Philharmonic

Beethoven Concerto No.

April 23, 24 1999

Honolulu Symphony Orchestra

Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2

May 2, 4 1999

Memphis Symphony Orchestra (TN)

Prokofiev Concerto No. 3

May 15, 16 1999

Fairfield Orchestra

Mozart Concerto in A Major, K. 488

October 2, 1999

Austin Symphony Orchestra

Prokofiev Concerto No. 3

October 8, 9 1999

Dearborn Symphony Orchestra

Ravel Concerto in G Major

November 5, 1999

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***RECENT ENGAGEMENTS***

Des Moines Symphony Orchestra  
 Khatchaturian Concerto  
 November 13, 14 1999

Pro Musica Chamber Orch. of Columbus  
 (OH) Beethoven Concerto No. 1  
 December 11, 12 1999

Annapolis Symphony Orchestra  
 Mozart Concerto in A Major, K. 488  
 January 28, 29 2000

Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra  
 Ravel Concerto in G Major  
 February 19, 2000

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
 Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
 March 2, 4 2000

Maui Symphony Orchestra  
 Mozart Concerto in A Major, K. 488  
 March 11, 2000

Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra  
 Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
 April 1, 2000

Regina Symphony Orchestra  
 (Saskatchewan) Khatchaturian Concert April 15,  
 2000

Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra  
 Ravel G Major Concerto  
 May 13, 15 2000

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra (PA)  
 Mendelssohn Concerto No. 2  
 May 20, 21 2000

Summer Symphony of Ann Arbor  
 Brahms Concerto No. 1  
 August 3, 6 2000

Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra  
 Ravel Concerto in G  
 September 30, 2000

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra  
 Beethoven Concerto No. 1  
 October 6, 7 2000

Anchorage Symphony Orchestra  
 Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
 November 4, 2000

York Symphony Orchestra  
 Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
 November 11, 2000

Asheville Symphony Orchestra  
 Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
 November 18, 2000

San Diego Symphony Orchestra  
 Khatchaturian Concerto  
 December 1, 2, 3 2000

Pueblo Symphony Orchestra (CO)  
 Beethoven Concerto No. 1  
 December 16, 2000

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***RECENT ENGAGEMENTS***

Waco Symphony Orchestra  
Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2  
January 18, 2001

Anderson Symphony Orchestra (IN)  
Khachaturian Concerto  
May 5, 2001

Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra  
Mozart Concerto No. 23  
January 27, 2001

Washington Symphony Orchestra  
Khachaturian Concerto  
May 19, 2001

St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra  
Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
February 2, 2001

Alma Symphony Orchestra (MI)  
Grieg Concerto  
February 16, 18 2001

Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra  
Beethoven Concerto No. 5  
March 9, 2001

Symphony of the Americas (FL)  
Mozart Concerto No. 23  
March 14, 15 2001

Laval Symphony Orchestra (Montreal)  
Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
April 4, 2001

Shanghai Broadcast Orchestra  
Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
April 6, 2001

National Orchestra of China (Beijing)  
Ravel Concerto in G  
April 14, 2001

Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra  
Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
April 21, 2001

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***2001 - 2002 CONCERT SCHEDULE***

State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra  
Brahms Concerto No. 1  
July 13 & 15, 2001

Chatauqua Festival  
Khatchaturian Concerto  
August 18, 2001

Santa Cruz Symphony Orchestra  
Khatchaturian Concerto  
September 29 & 30, 2001

Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra  
Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2  
October 6, 2001

Auburn Symphony Orchestra (CA)  
Beethoven Concerto No. 3  
October 13 & 14, 2001

Southern Arizona Symphony (Tucson)  
Khatchaturian Concerto  
October 21, 2001

Virginia Symphony Orchestra (Norfolk)  
Khatchaturian Concerto  
October 27 & 28, 2001

Irving Symphony Orchestra (TX)  
Brahms Concerto No. 1  
November 10, 2001

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra  
Brahms Concerto No. 1  
December 7 & 8, 2001

Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestra  
Grieg Concerto  
January 19, 2002

Rockford Symphony Orchestra (IL)  
Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
January 26, 2002

Allentown Symphony Orchestra  
Brahms Concerto No. 2  
February 9, 2002

Tacoma Symphony Orchestra  
Grieg Concerto  
February 15, 2002

Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra (MI)  
Liszt Concerto No. 2  
February 23 & 24, 2002

Garland Symphony Orchestra (TX)  
Liszt Concerto No. 2  
February 28, 2002

Las Colinas Symphony (TX)  
Liszt Concerto No. 2  
March 1, 2002

Arlington Symphony Orchestra (TX)  
Liszt Concerto No. 2  
March 2, 2002

Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra  
Brahms Concerto No. 2  
March 9, 2002

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***2001 - 2002 CONCERT SCHEDULE***

Wartburg Symphony Orchestra (IA)  
Liszt Concerto No. 2  
April 4, 2002

North Carolina Symphony (Raleigh)  
Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
April 12, 13, 14, & 16, 2002

Victoria Symphony Orchestra  
Saint-Saens Concerto No. 2  
April 27, 2002

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra (PA)  
Grieg Concerto  
May 4 & 5, 2002

Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra  
Liszt Concerto No. 2  
*May 11 & 12, 2002*

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
**2003- 2004 CONCERT SCHEDULE**

(All concerts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

Akron Symphony Orchestra  
 Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
 E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall  
 September 20, 2003

Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
 Alys Stephens Center  
 Liszt Concerto No. 2  
 October 3, 2003  
 October 4, 2003

Norwalk Symphony Orchestra  
 Norwalk Concert Hall  
 Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
 October 11, 2003

Southwest Michigan Symphony  
 Lake Michigan College Mendel Ctr. Mainstg.  
 Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
 November 1, 2003, 7:30 pm

Pueblo Symphony Orchestra  
 Frank S. Hoag Hall  
 Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
 November 8, 2003, 7:30 pm

Fresno Philharmonic  
 William Saroyan Theatre  
 Khatchaturian Concerto  
 November 15, 2003  
 November 16, 2003

Edmonton Philharmonia  
 Francis Windspear Centre for Music  
 Gonzales Piano Concerto (World Premiere)  
 November 28, 2003

Symphony of Southeast Texas  
 Julie Rogers Theatre  
 Brahms Concerto No. 1  
 January 15, 2004, 7:30 pm

Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra  
 Heritage Theatre, Civic Center  
 Schumann Concerto A  
 February 14, 2004

San Diego Chamber Orchestra  
 Schumann Concerto A  
 February 23, 2004, St. Joseph's Cathedral  
 February 24, 2004, Fairbanks Ranch CC  
 February 26, 2004, Rancho Sante Fe

Greater Grand Fork  
 Hall (tba)  
 Rep (tba)  
 February 28, 2004

South Arkansas Symphony  
 Hall (tba)  
 Prokofiev Concerto No. 3  
 March 27, 2004  
 March 28, 2004

Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra  
 Neumann Auditorium  
 Brahms Concerto No. 1  
 April 3, 2004

Garden State Philharmonic Symphony  
 Toms River High School North Auditorium  
 Rep (tba)  
 April 17, 2004

Everett Symphony Orchestra  
 Washingtons Everett Civic Auditorium  
 Mendelssohn Concerto #2  
 April 30, 2004

**DICKRAN ATAMIAN**  
**PIANIST**  
***2003- 2004 CONCERT SCHEDULE***

(All concerts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra  
Orpheum Theatre  
Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
April 24, 2004

Garland/Los Colinas/Arlington Symphony  
Hall (tba)  
Rep (tba)  
May 5,6,7, 2004

Orquesta Symphonia del Estado De Mexico  
(Toluca, Mexico)  
Hall (tba)  
June 25, 2004  
June 27, 2004

Orquesta Symphonia Nationale de Mexico  
Bellas Artes  
Rep (tba)  
'03-'04 Season

Chippewa Symphony Orchestra  
Hall (tba)  
Rep (tba)  
'03-'04 season

Scottsdale Symphony Orchestra  
Hall (tba)  
Gonzales Piano Concerto (SW premiere)  
'03-'04 season

Macon Symphony Orchestra  
Porter Memorial Auditorium  
Tchaikovsky Concerto No. 1  
'03-'04 season