



Jack Price
Founding Partner / Managing Director

Marc Parella
Partner / Director of Operations

Jackie Abramson
Senior Marketing Associate

Nancy Trestain
Senior Marketing Associate

Mailing Address:
520 Geary Street Suite 605
San Francisco CA 94102

Telephone:
Toll-Free 1-866-PRI-RUBI (774-7824)
310-254-7149 / Los Angeles
415-504-3654 / San Francisco

Email:
jp@pricerubin.com

Website:
<http://www.pricerubin.com>

Yahoo!Messenger
pricerubin

Amira Fouad, Pianist



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Biography

Concert pianist, Amira Fouad enjoys a varied career as a pianist and performs a diverse repertoire for audiences internationally. Since her London début recital Amira's performing career has taken her on tour to North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. She has been heard at some of the world's great concert halls including, Bösendorfer Hall in Vienna, the National Concert Hall in Dublin, St. John's Smith Square London, The Cairo Opera House and Victoria Hall in Singapore, to name a few. Amira has been recorded live for CBC Radio in Canada as well as for MBC and LBC Television.

Amira is the founder and artistic director of the Festival of the Nile, a celebration of chamber music repertoire with the aim to develop a cultural exchange of ideas between Egyptian and international artists. The Festival of the Nile has sponsored the commission of new works by young Egyptian composers and promoted educational and charitable concerts in Egypt and in several European capitals.

Amira has a talent in passing on her gift of music and enjoys directing international masterclasses for young aspiring pianists. Equally at home with solo and chamber music repertoire, Amira collaborates with various artists and performs as the guest soloist with orchestras such as the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Cairo Symphony Orchestra.

Amira showed strong musical talent at a very young age. She began her musical studies at the age of five in Canada, supported by a family with a deep love of music and the fine arts. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees in Canada at Queen's University and the University of Windsor respectively, where she studied on full scholarships. She was awarded grants from the Canadian government to study with the internationally-renowned French pianist, Cécile Ousset in Paris. Amira was subsequently awarded a full scholarship from the Royal College of Music in London where she received the Master of Music degree studying under the eminent pedagogue and pianist Kendall Taylor.

Past Performances

Bösendorfer Hall, Vienna

St. John's Smith Square, London

Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto

Glenn Gould Studio, The National Library, Ottawa

St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London

The British Museum, London

Victoria Hall, Singapore

The Dorchester, London

National Concert Hall, Dublin

Leighton House Museum, London

St. James's Picadilly, London

Claridges, London

The Royal Automobile Club (RAC), London

The Winnipeg Centennial Concert Hall

Ewart Hall, American University of Cairo (AUC), Cairo, Egypt

Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt

Assembly Hall, American University in Beirut (AUB), Beirut

Cairo Citadel, Cairo

The Royal Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan

The Royal Cultural Center, Abu Dhabi

Mandarin Oriental, London

Discography

Amira Fouad's CD recording, PORTRAITS: A PIANIST'S JOURNEY from London's Wigmore Hall has just been released.

This CD highlights some of Amira's favourite works by Chopin including the famous Ballade in G minor, op. 23, the dramatic Nocturne in C minor, op. 48, no. 1 as well as the nostalgic Nocturne in E minor, op. 72 no. 1.

Included on the CD is 'Estampes' by Claude Debussy including 'Pagodes', 'La Soirée dans Grenade' and 'Jardins sous la pluie'. Following the Debussy is a selection of works based on 'Oriental' themes evoking Arabic images by Isaac Albéniz and Enrique Granados. Then is a feature world premiere recording of the complete 'Suite Folklorique op. 25, nos. 1 & 2' by Abou-Bakr Khaïrat. The finale is the gypsy dance 'Zambra Gitana' by Ernesto Lecuona.

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

1. Nocturne in C minor, op. 48 no. 1 (1841)
2. Ballade in G minor, op. 23 (1833)
3. Nocturne in E minor, op. 72 post. (1827)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Estampes (1903)

4. I. Pagodes
5. II. La Soirée dans Grenade
6. III. Jardins sous la pluie

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

7. Orientale, op. 232, no. 2 (1892)

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

8. Moresque (c. 1890)

9. Canción Árabe (c. 1890)

10. Canción Morisca (c. 1890)

11. Arabesca (c. 1890)

Abu Bakr Khaïrat (1930-1963)

12. Suite Folklorique, op. 25, no. 1 (1959) - Tactouka de Sayed Darwish – ‘Eh il abara?’

13. Suite Folklorique, op. 25, no. 2 (1959) - based on the Egyptian Folk Song , ‘Yamama Helwa wa meen hagibha?’

Ernesto Lecuona (1896 - 1963)

14. Zambra Gitana (1690)