Marianna Abrahamyan

PIANIST · BIOGRAPHY

Armenian pianist **Marianna Abrahamyan** is an internationally recognised award-winning pianist and collaborative artist. She has appeared in solo recital at Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in Paris, Pro Arte Festival in Córdoba, Festival Internacional Encuentros in Buenos Aires, Festival Musica da Casa Menotti in Italy, Oslo Cathedral and Kilden Performing Art Centre in Norway, and Stevenson Hall at RCS. She has also performed live in *La Matinale de France Musique* for Radio France, BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Scotland. In 2016 she was awarded the Second Prize at the Concours International de Piano d'Orléans with an additional five special awards including the Prix SACEM, Prix Samson François, Prix Albert Roussel, *Prix des Etudiants du Conservatoire d'Orléans* and the Artist-in-Residence scholarship award by the Henry Dutilleux foundation in France.

In addition to her solo performing activities, Marianna is a sought-after collaborative pianist. She has appeared in performances at the Purcell Room in Southbank Centre, St Martin in-the-Fields and Wigmore Hall in London, Perth Concert Hall, Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh, The Cumnock Tryst Festival, Stavanger Youth Chamber Music Festival and BBC Classics Unwrapped with acclaimed musicians such as violinist Gina McCormack, mezzo soprano Karen Cargill, and Saxophonist Lewis Banks. She has also served as the official pianist for the BBC Radio Scotland Young Classical Musician Award in 2023. Marianna was the recipient of the Hester Dickson Duo Prize for the 2019 Oxenfoord International Festival, founded and directed by Malcolm Martineau. Marianna appeared at the Kathleen Ferrier Society Bursary Competition 2016, winning the Dennis Horner Accompanist's Prize. Marianna was a Samling Artist for 2018 and performed for His Majesty, King Charles III (at that time The Prince of Wales), at Dumfries House in both 2018 and 2019.

In 2019, with the support of UGAB Buenos Aires, Marianna initiated *Komitas-150,* a project of performing solo and chamber music works by the influential composer and founder of the Armenian national school of music, Komitas, at the Kirchner Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires.

As a proactive proponent of contemporary music, Marianna has collaborated with numerous living composers, including Sir James Macmillan, John Wallace, Philip Hersant, Hèctor Parra, Jay Capperauld, Konrad Mikal Ørhn, Rolf Gupta, Pierre Jodlowski and Alicia Terzian. She has performed with such renowned Scottish ensembles as Red Note Ensemble and Hebrides Ensemble.

Since 2020, Marianna has worked with Karen Cargill as the pianist and artistic advisor on Karen's Associate Artist programme for young singers at the RCS. Projects have included residencies at Drumlanrig Castle, a tour of National Trust for Scotland properties and a performance the Cumnock Tryst Festival.

In 2021, Marianna began a new collaborative performer/composer partnership with German composer Katrin Klose. The two musicians were invited as Artists-in-Residence at Marchmont Estate,

their combined forces culminating in a new piano concerto. Marianna and Red Note Ensemble premiered the concerto as part of the RCS Plug Festival in April 2022. They have appeared at the Perform_Live Festival in Dublin (March 2022) and the RCS Exchange Talks (October 2022) presenting lecture-demonstrations on their process of conception, composition and creation of a new piano concerto.

Marianna began piano at the age of 5, taught by her mother, followed by a specialised education at the Tchaikovsky Professional Music School for talented children in Armenia. She is a graduate of the University of Agder in Norway (studied with Sveinung Bjelland) and the Yerevan State Conservatoire in Armenia (studied with Armen Babakhanian).

In June 2024, Marianna was awarded the degree of Doctor of Performing Arts by the University of St Andrews on behalf of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) for her thesis entitled 'The Role of Dexterity in Ligeti's Piano Etudes, Trio and Concerto.' As part of her doctoral studies, Marianna has performed Ligeti's complete cycle of 18 Etudes for piano concluding with a performance of Ligeti's Piano Concerto. Her supervisory team included Sinae Lee, Tim Rutherford-Johnson, and Professor Roy Howat.

In 2024, Marianna was appointed Lecturer in Piano at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), after having taught at the RCS Junior Programme since 2017, now continuing to teach and mentor young pianists at both Junior and Senior Conservatoire. Since 2024 she also teaches Music Scholars at St Andrews University. Marianna is a highly regarded piano teacher, with past and present students having won top prizes at the prestigious piano competitions in the UK and internationally. She regularly features in invited lectures and masterclasses, including lecture recitals at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the Ligeti Festival in Transylvania, Romania, and the Prague Piano Festival and teaching/masterclass invitations from the Purcell Specialist Music School and St Mary's Specialist Music School.