

KARIM SAID, Wednesday 20th JUNE 2012

Pre-concert talk (ca. 20 mins)

Short Interval (5-10 mins)

Alban Berg (1885 - 1935) – Sonata, Op. 1

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1810) – Sonata No. 4 in E flat major, Op. 7

1. Allegro molto e con brio
2. Largo, con gran espressione
3. Allegro
4. Rondo: Poco allegretto e grazioso

Interval

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828) - Piano piece in E flat major, D. 946 no. 2

Arnold Schoenberg (1874–1951) - Suite for Piano, Op. 25

1. Präludium
2. Gavotte
3. Musette
4. Intermezzo
5. Menuett

Bio for Wednesday 20th June:

Karim Said

"..there was no mistaking the shape he gave to the music, the interpretative ingenuity and mischievous wit, and I came away wanting to hear more", Norman Lebrecht



At the age of nineteen, the Jordanian-born pianist Karim Said gave his Barbican debut playing a Mozart Concerto with the English Chamber Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis. A year later, in 2009, his BBC Proms debut resulted in a series of successful reviews for his broadcasted performance of Berg's "Chamber Concerto" with Daniel Barenboim and the West Eastern Divan, of which Karim has been a member since 1999, receiving regular instruction from Barenboim. As a result of intimately studying the music of the Second Viennese School with his mentor, a great advocate of the repertoire himself, Karim's passion for this genre has led him to curate a series of three solo recitals in 2013 at London's Southbank Centre, exploring various composers in and around the School.

Born into a Palestinian family in Amman in 1988, Karim started learning the piano at the age of five with the Georgian pianist and composer Agnessa Bashir-Dzodtsoeva. At the age of eight he gave his first solo recital, and by ten he had won the first prize in a junior international competition in Bucharest and performed Mozart's Concerto no.21 in C major in cities across his native region.

In 2000, at eleven, Karim moved to Hertfordshire in the UK to study piano, composition and conducting at the Purcell School of Music with Tessa Nicholsson, Jonathan Cole and Quentin Poole. During his school years, he performed at such venues as St. John's Smith Square, founded his own orchestra, and conducted in masterclasses with Bernard Haitink. In 2005, he met the renowned Russian pianist and teacher Prof. Tatiana Sarkissova who continues to teach and inspire him with indefatigable energy.

The main events in Karim's development between 2000 and 2007 were captured on film by the internationally acclaimed Christopher Nupen of Allegro Films in an hour long documentary. The award winning "Karim's Journey" was shown on BBC4 in 2008 as well as on Australian, Finnish, Swiss Belgian and Czech television. It helped launch an already growing performing career which has taken Karim to such venues as Vienna's Musikverein, the Berlin Philharmonic, Salzburg's Mozarteum, the Essen Philharmonic, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, Milan's La Scala, Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, Abu Dhabi's 'Khubayrat' and Seoul's 'Jangcheon Art' Hall.

After being awarded a full scholarship to study London's Royal Academy of Music in 2007, he received the first ever "Enescu" Prize. Apart from his ongoing studies with Tatiana Sarkissova at the Academy, he has also been coached by such musicians as Thomas Brandis, Boris Bermann, Menahem Pressler, Pascal Devoyen, Pierre Boulez (on his own music), Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Robert Levin.

Karim is currently studying for a Masters degree with Prof. Tatiana Sarkissova at the Royal Academy of Music and hopes to graduate in June 2013. Karim Said is generously supported by the Musician's Benevolent Fund.