

## NATALIA KAZARYAN, piano

### Biography



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From Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, pianist Natalia Kazaryan has been hailed by *The New York Sun* for her "prodigious ability," remarking that she "immediately established an atmosphere of strength and confidence." She is "a marvel among marvels ... fascinating, elegant" (*Nice-Matin*) and her playing is dynamically "lovely, lyrical ... beautiful" (*Classical Post*).

Passionate about programming works by female composers, she recently curated and performed a recital of all women composers at the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., a performance *The Washington Post* named "one of the best classical concerts of the summer 2019." She reprises the program for "All Classical Portland" (OR), and continues to expand her series of lecture-recitals showcasing works of female composers, including a recent performance with the National Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the centennial of the 19th amendment (women's suffrage). She also was recently appointed as a board member of the International Alliance for Women in Music.

Her Philadelphia recital debut on Astral's series in December 2019 includes a commission by Alexandra Gardner. Also upcoming is a solo recital for Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series as well as recitals in Michigan, Florida, and Washington DC.

Ms. Kazaryan recently performed Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra and appeared at the Kennedy Center and the National Gallery of Art. She has given recitals in Detroit, Key West, and in Washington, D.C. on the Smithsonian Steinway Series, and appeared in an all-Messiaen concert at The Church of the Epiphany. She has performed with the Ann Arbor Symphony, and appeared in New York's Merkin Concert Hall and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Kazaryan enjoys an active performing career across Europe. She has appeared in such venues as the Schloss Mirabell in Salzburg, Théâtre des Variétés in Monaco, Auditorio Sony in Madrid, and the Musée Carnavalet and Salle Cortot in Paris. She performs regularly at the Palazzo Tornabuoni in Florence, and has participated in the IMS Prussia Cove Master Classes in Cornwall, England.

Ms. Kazaryan began studying piano at the age of six, and performed as soloist with the Tbilisi State Chamber Orchestra just one year later. A winner of Astral's 2016 National Auditions, she has also captured top prizes in numerous international competitions, including the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition, the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition, and the Second New York Piano Competition. In 2012, she was the First Prize winner of the Concours FLAME in Paris and the Second Prize winner of Concours international de piano d'Ile de France.

The first Juilliard student to participate in the Carla Bruni-Sarkozy exchange with the Paris Conservatoire, Ms. Kazaryan studied piano in Paris with Michel Béroff and chamber music with Valérie Aimard. An active chamber musician, she took part in the Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship, dedicated to collaboration between The Juilliard School, the Paris Conservatoire, and the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien. She later won both a Fulbright Grant and a Harriett Hale Woolley Scholarship to Paris to continue her studies, with a focus on Olivier Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'enfant Jésus*.

Natalia Kazaryan studied in the preparatory division of the Tbilisi Music Conservatory with Alla Nakashidze. She holds both a Bachelor and a Master's degree from The Juilliard School, where she studied under Jerome Lowenthal and Matti Raekallio. From 2013-2015, she studied at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, under Dimitri Bashkirov, and in June 2014 received a "Sobresaliente" Award from the hands of Queen Sofía of Spain for outstanding work and excellence. She completed doctoral studies at the University of Michigan under Logan Skelton and holds an adjunct piano faculty position at Howard University.

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Acclaim



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“prodigious ability... [she] immediately established an atmosphere of strength and confidence”—*The New York Sun*

“one of the best concerts of summer 2019”  
—*The Washington Post*

“The ‘Scarbo’ movement of Ravel’s *Gaspard de la nuit* can be the undoing of many a pianist, but Natalia Kazaryan calmed its anxieties....there is no arguing that the young artist was saying what she wanted.”—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Her *Tombeau [de Couperin]* was a delight from beginning to end”  
—*Maverick Arts Publishing*

### *Translation:*

“The manner in which [Kazaryan] performs Ravel is unequaled. A marvel among marvels, she is fascinating, elegant, and plays with great simplicity.”—*Nice Matin*

“Natalia Kazaryan plucked the ‘Scarbo’ section from Ravel’s *Gaspard de la Nuit* and gave the notoriously difficult music a thoughtful, burnished glow”—*Broad Street Review*