

PRESS QUOTES

"Huge talent..." --The Evening Standard

"A world-class pianist who excels at blending the best of Western and Middle Eastern compositions" --Gulf News

"Kamangar was a skilled advocate, playing with nimble technique and lustrous phrasing" --The San Francisco Chronicle

"Her fingers moved like liquid gold...Softer passages were especially lovely and poetic" --San Francisco Classical Voice

"Tara's expressive playing will speak to listeners of any nationality" --BBC Persian

"Tara played to a full house and rapturous applause...An impeccable performance of the cycle of Tjeknavorian's Danes Fantastiques proved particularly popular" --Harvard Club of the United Kingdom

"Tara played with an elegant force and conviction...The audience was enchanted" --Iranian.com

"[Her] flawless and beautiful performance brought the audience to a standing ovation" --Iranian.com

"With her elegant fingers flying over the ivory keys, [Tara] had the room captivated...Some may say that classical music is not their 'thing' but Tara is capable of converting you. She puts her entire being into her music" --Asian Woman Magazine

"[Tara] has the world at her fingertips" --Modesto Bee

"A sensitive, dedicated pianist with lots of fire and depth" --Conductor Loris Tjeknavorian

BIO

With a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach to Behzad Ranjbaran, pianist Tara Kamangar's career highlights have included performances at London's Cadogan Hall, the David Josefowitz Recital Hall, Wathen Hall, the Whitehall Palace, the Paramount Theatre, Harvard's Paine Concert Hall, and the Wattis Room of San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall. She recently performed Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with the Oakland Symphony for a capacity audience of over 3,000, as well as giving the US premiere of Aminollah Hossein's Piano Concerto No. 2. Her concerts have been broadcast over Voice of America Television and Radio and the BBC Persian Service, and sponsored by such organizations as the Harvard Club of the United Kingdom, the Iran Heritage Foundation, Magic of Persia, Asia House, and the San Francisco Symphony League.

Tara has enchanted audiences with rarely-heard works by the Iranian composers Aminollah Hossein, Loris Tjeknavorian, and Hormoz Farhat, and has recorded the complete piano works of Iran's leading female composer, Golnoush Khaleghi, at the composer's request, to be released on the RKAC label. This past year, she was the featured performer at the Women Leading Global Change Conference in Westminster and the Women of the Future Awards in London, and was named an Ambassador for the Women of Achievement Programme by Princess Zahra Aga Khan. She has performed for several members of the UK parliament and the former leader of the UK Conservative Party, as well as the former First Lady of the UK, Cherie Blair, and the US Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. At the request of music producer David Foster, she performed at a

fundraiser at the residence of Barbra Streisand in a line-up that included Josh Groban, Kenny G, and Melissa Etheridge.

A native of California, Tara began private studies in piano and violin at the age of three. She placed first in several piano competitions while still in high school, received the Paderewski Medal from the National Piano Guild, and participated in the TCU/ Van Cliburn, Aspen, Oberlin, and San Francisco International Piano Festivals. During this time, Tara also performed as a first violinist with the Merced Symphony Orchestra and the California All-State Orchestra, and performed Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto with two symphony orchestras. After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class, Tara attended Harvard University, receiving a BA with Honors in Anthropology. While at Harvard, she continued her piano studies with Victor Rosenbaum, Professor of Piano at the New England Conservatory, and served as President of both the 300+-member Piano Society and the Persian Society. She performed in a solo recital broadcast live over WHRB 95.3FM, in addition to chamber recitals and master classes across campus, and formed a piano-violin duo with the Concertmistress of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra.

Tara recently completed postgraduate studies in piano performance at London's Royal Academy of Music, where she was recipient of the Kathleen Bayfield scholarship. This coming June, her solo recital at Washington DC's National Gallery of Art will include the premiere of one of her own compositions. She has also recently written nineteen songs to lyrics by her brother Arya. They are influenced by French chansons, Latin and jazz music, and will be recorded by the Cypriot singer and former Sony artist, Vakia Stavrou. Tara resides in London.