

## Fazil SAY

Fazil Say, who began music life with his toy instruments when he was three, was born in 1970 in Ankara. He began playing the songs he heard from radio and plaques by hearsay with the 3 octave organ which his family bought him when he was four. And also he made his first tunes. His family realize his ability on music, thus, Fazil Say started taking piano and composition lessons in a professional manner when he was five.

At the age of seventeen in 1987, after he graduated from Ankara Conservatory, he was awarded a scholarship that enabled him to study for five years with David Levine at the Robert Schumann Institute in Düsseldorf. For Levine, Mr. Say says "He is one of the best leading commentators on Shubert, in the world. As a creative commentator he is an exemplary pianist. I take him as my model". In 1991, Mr. Say took concert pianist certificate. Same year, he was achieved his first international success by came out on top in the European Piano Competition, which was organized by European Union. From 1992 to 1995 he continued his studies at the Berlin Conservatory. In 1994, when he was 24, he was the winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. By the way he gave a rapid start to his international career.



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Fazil Say is a regular guest with the New York Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony, the St Petersburg Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, the Vienna Symphny Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France and other leading orchestras across the globe. He has appeared at the Lucerne Festival, the Salzburg Festival, the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Rheingau Music

Festival, the Verbier Festival, the Montpellier Festival, the Montreux Jazz Festival, Roque d'Antheron, the Beethoven Festival Bonn, and in all the world's leading concert halls, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Vienna Musikverein and Konzerthaus, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York, and many others.

Since then, he keeps on working in the European countries, mostly in France, and five continents. Fazil Say, who performed more than 100 concerts each year, says "1994 was a historic moment in my career. After I won Europe Young Concert Soloists Competition in 1994, I got the world championship in the Young Concert Artists International Auditions held in New York in 1995. I honored with Radio France Foundation Award, Paul A. Fish Foundation Award, Boston Metamorphoses Orchestra Soloist Award, and Maurice Claremont Foundation Award. Thus I got the opportunity to continue my career in New York."

Fazil Say's first recording, a Mozart disc released in 1998, garnered rave reviews from the press. His discography includes Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and I Got Rhythm Variations with the New York Philharmonic and Kurt Masur, a Bach recital, and Stravinsky's own arrangement of Le Sacre du Printemps for four hands (in which Say plays both parts). He has received numerous international awards for this recording, including the 2001 Echo-Preis Klassik and the 2001 German Music Critics' Best Recording of the Year Award. He has performed the work live to ovations in concert halls around the world. Another of his recordings couples Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto no.1 (with the St Petersburg Philharmonic under Yuri Temirkanov) and Franz Liszt's Piano Sonata.

Musician Fazil Say notes that he got great support of his family's and piano teachers' in Ankara, in the progression of his creativity and he adds "In music, master - apprentice relationship is the most important thing."

Mr. Say who represents his country with pride in each organization has participated in overseas, emphasizes that the great responsibility of being an artist is constantly working and learning. EU Intercultural Ambassador Fazil Say mentioned that he is ready to do incumbent duty for world peace and happiness. Mr. Say expressed a representative artist as "The most important responsibility of an artist is 'to make good art'. A composer do not writes only for telling the communal dialogues or to resolve the problems in the community. Can write just for he likes it. I read Nazim's book 'Yaşamaya Dair' everyday in my twenties. I read it in different places, moods, time and with energy. Sometimes I cry, sometimes laughed or sometime I got energy from. An artist has own problems, and has own wounds too. We, the artists, have many social and psychological problems. Of these, the effects how is sounds within each of us, has to be put in work in somehow. It is the only way to understand people and integrate into society."

Fazil Say evaluates Turkey's EU Membership process as follows "I am one of the fiercest defenders of the idea of Turkey's membership to EU. We've appealed 30 years ago. However, we'll need to wait maybe 20 more years to enter. We have to work hard to remove Turkey to the European standards. At this point the young generations become a part of this job and young entrepreneurs will play role in arts, likewise in business world.

Mr. Say, who proudly introduces his country's name to the world in each work he did, spends his lifetime by learning and producing. He recommends working hard to youth and adds: "My calendar is full till the end of 2012. There is no end of learning. To do good things in the world, you should know what has happened in there. Young minds ought to be creative, and try to do which has never done yet, not the thing which everyone else does. Trying to emulate someone, who we take as our model, is not enough. We'll be successful when we'll be one step ahead."

"As a composer, I'm capable of being in boundaries of eastern and western synthesis since the beginning of my art life" says Fazil Say, "Bosporus is always in my mind. The bridge between Europe and Asia is the source of my inspiration. My music fed by all movements that influence Turkey. It is not possible to make a classification of my music. That's why; I manage to gather different people from different cultures under the umbrella of art."

