

Persian Autumn

Piano works by Hormoz Farhat &

Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour

Mary Dullea



métier

Persian Autumn

Hormoz Farhat (b.1928):

I	Toccata	3:34
	Piano Sonata No. 1	13:50
2	I <i>Allegretto, maestoso</i>	3:28
3	II <i>Adagio con finezza</i>	3:55
4	III <i>Moderato</i>	2:51
5	IV <i>Rondo</i>	4:23
	Piano Sonata No. 2	23:08
6	I <i>Allegretto</i>	10:57
7	II <i>Largo con molto espressione e flessibilità</i>	6:22
8	III <i>Molto animato</i>	5:48

Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour (b.1974):

9	Yasna	9:05
10	Shabahang	7:02
11	Pendar for piano	9:25
12	Celebration at Pasargadae	5:45

Total duration	72:40
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Mary Dullea *piano*

The composers

Hormoz Farhat (b.1928)

Hormoz Farhat was the first Iranian to have studied music in the U.S. He has a BA in composition from UCLA; he received an MA from Mills College, where he studied with Darius Milhaud, followed by further studies in composition, back at UCLA, with Lukas Foss and later with Roy Harris. For his PhD degree he worked with Professor Mantle Hood and produced, as his dissertation, what is regarded as the seminal work on the Persian modal system: *The Dastgah Concept in Persian Music*, published later (1990) by the Cambridge University Press.

For many years, Dr. Farhat was a member of the Music Faculty at UCLA, followed by a period of return to his native country in the 1970s, when he served as Professor and Head of the Music Department at Tehran University. He was also active as the Chairman of the Music Council at the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization. Since 1979 he has been in Ireland, first as a Visiting Professor at the Queens University of Belfast, followed by his appointment to the Chair of Music and the Headship of the School of Music at Dublin University, Trinity College. He retired in 1995 but continues his associations with Trinity College as an Emeritus Professor and a Fellow of the College.

Professor Farhat has written a sizable body of compositions, including symphonic works, concertos, chamber music, choral works, songs and piano music. Some of his compositions have been widely performed in countries the United States, Great Britain, Iran, Romania, France, Poland, Ireland and the Philippines. He has lectured at many universities in Europe and in America, including a two term lecture engagement (1972-73) at Harvard University.

The composers

Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour (b.1974)

Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour is a leading Iranian contemporary composer. He specialises in a modern classical music that reaches across time and continents and he has worked with numerous major ensembles, soloists and orchestras internationally. Tafreshipour received his Bachelor of Music from Esbjerg Academy of Music in Denmark in 2001. In 2003 he won the first prize at the biennial composition competition for new music at Tehran University with his solo piano work *Images of Childhood*, featuring the celebrated Irish pianist Mary Dullea. In the same year he was awarded a Silver Medal for Outstanding Achievement at Trinity College of Music, presented by the Duke of Kent. His studies continued at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 2016 he completed his PhD in composition at Brunel University, London, under the supervision of Professor Christopher Fox.

In 2005 Amir was commissioned by the BBC Symphony Orchestra to compose the first ever Iranian Harp Concerto, *Persian Echoes*, which was premiered under the baton of Pascal Rophé and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. The concerto was later recorded with the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Alexander Rahbari and the soloist Gabriella Dall'Olio.

In 2015 his opera, *The Doll Behind the Curtain*, was premiered at the Tête à Tête Opera Festival in King's Place, London. Based on a work by the celebrated Persian writer Sadegh Hedayat, with a libretto by Dominic Power, it is the first opera in English by an Iranian composer to be premiered in Europe. This opera was also premiered at the Danish Royal Opera House. Recent CD releases include *Persian Echoes* on Naxos Records in 2018 and *In Absentia* on Métier in 2019.

Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour is currently working on his new opera based on the story of the Anglo Iranian Oil Company and its nationalization in the 1950s, collaborating again with Dominic Power.

www.tafreshipour.com

The pianist

Mary Dullea

As soloist and chamber musician, Irish pianist Mary Dullea leads a diverse performance career internationally. Her frequent broadcasts include BBC Radio 3, Radio 4, RTHK, RTÉ Lyric FM, WQXR, Radio New Zealand and Sky Arts, Irish, French, Austrian and Italian television. Concerto appearances include RTÉ Concert Orchestra, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and KZN Philharmonic Orchestra. Mary's CD recordings include releases on labels such as NMC, Delphian Records, Resonus Classics, Altarus, Col Legno, MNR, Naxos, Lorelt and Divine Art/Métier. Recent collaborations include premiere recordings of Philip Glass for Orange Mountain Music, Kevin Volans Piano Trio No. 3 Le Tombeau des Regrets, a second instalment of French piano trios for Resonus Classics and a Gerald Barry portrait CD of solo piano and chamber music.

A sought-after interpreter of new music, Mary's expansive repertoire covers the standard piano literature as well as an ever-increasing amount of 20th- and 21st-century compositions, many of which are dedicated to her. Her piano trio, Fidelio Trio, are passionate advocates for piano trio repertoire around the world. They were shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards Ensemble Prize and have been Gramophone Magazine Editor's Choice for their recordings. The trio have appeared at prestigious venues around the globe including Shanghai Oriental Arts Centre, Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room Southbank Centre, Casa da Musica Porto, Morrison Artist Series San Francisco, Andy Warhol Museum Pittsburgh, National Centre for Performing Arts Mumbai, Beijing Modern Music Festival, National Concert Hall Dublin, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Brighton Festival, Cheltenham Festival and Gümüşlük International Classical Music Festival. They have collaborated with actor Adrian Dunbar, writer Alexander McCall-Smith and poet Sinead Morrissey. Constantly commissioning new works, composers that the Trio have worked closely with include Johannes Maria Staud, Donnacha Dennehy, Joe Cutler, Judith Weir, Piers Hellawell, Ann Cleare and Charles Wuorinen, to name but a few.

Mary was the curator of 'Soundings' (an annual UK/Austrian collaborative new music festival) at the Austrian Cultural Forum London from 2008 to 2016. She has served on the jury of 'Schubert und die Musik der Moderne' International Chamber Music Competition in Graz, Austria. In 2014 she founded 'Chamber Music on Valentia' an annual chamber music festival in Co. Kerry, Ireland, with the aim of bringing chamber music performances of international standing, innovative programming and outreach and engagement programmes to this unique place.

Mary's own studies were at The Royal College of Music, London on the Edith Best Scholarship, Goldsmiths, University of London (M.Mus in Contemporary Music Studies) and her Ph.D in Performance is from Ulster University. Mary was on the piano faculty of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for 9 years. She previously held the position of Director of Performance at the University of Sheffield and since 2015 she has held this position at Royal Holloway, University of London where she is also Reader in Music.

www.marydullea.com

More recordings by Mary Dullea from Métier include:

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Eric Craven: Entangled States MSV 28571

Eric Craven: Pieces for Piano volumes 1 & 2 MSV 28601-2 (for release early 2021)

'Gothic' – New piano music from Ireland MSV 28549

and several recordings with the Fidelio Trio

The music

Hormoz Farhat:

Toccata

This is one of Farhat's earliest mature works after he began to study composition under Boris Kremenliev at UCLA. It was written in 1952 and is based on the Persian folk song 'Ko rey shim' (which way to go). It was dedicated to the famous Russian composer and pianist Alexander Tcherepnin whom Farhat had met and befriended during the International Music Olympiad, held in Los Angeles in 1952. The *Toccata* was performed on numerous occasions in the U.S. and also in Tehran by the Romanian/American pianist Julien Musafia.

Piano Sonata No. 1

For two years between 1955 and 57 Farhat was a composition pupil of Lukas Foss who was not only a very gifted composer but also a great pianist and conductor. The work consists of four brief but highly condensed movements and is dedicated to Foss who played the Sonata at sight and thought it to be singularly original. It was performed at numerous concerts in Los Angeles by pianist Gwendolyn Moor.

Piano Sonata No. 2

While the Toccata and the First Sonata are very early compositions, the Second Sonata is a work of Farhat's old age. Written in 2010, it reveals a very different sound world; its three movements are more expansive, melodious, and less abrasive than the short movements of the First Sonata. The work is dedicated to the composer's cousin Shahin Farhat who is also a composer. It was premiered at the Merkin Concert Hall in New York City by pianist Soheil Nasseri who also performed the work at a number of other venues in the United States and in Ireland.

Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour:

Yasna

Yasna is the name in the Avestan language given to the central act of worship in Zoroastrianism. This composition for solo piano was inspired by my travels to the city of Yazd in Iran, where a community of Zoroastrians live. The thematic opening consists of intervallic movements which leads the music - contrasting several forms and gestures of sound to describe a spiritual ceremony that wards off destructive forces while exalting the creation of Ahura Mazda.

Pendar

Pendar is a series of compositions for solo instruments of which the solo violin piece is to be found on *In Absentia* (Metier MSV 28576). The music inhabits a world of inner drama which interacts with the outside world in a way that exists beyond conscious thought. Pendar could be understood as 'thought'; perhaps the kind of thought which confronts and subverts, entering and rummaging around in the subconscious and then rearing up in front of you – like a clown or a giant balloon – when you least expect it. The relationships of perspective between the player and their instrument, and between the player and the audience, are in state of constant motion.

Shabahang

Shabahang was commissioned by Mary Dullea for the Valentia Chamber Music Festival in 2017. The word “Shabahang” literally means nocturne but here the music is dedicated to an evocation of the rough clash of the Atlantic ocean against the rocky coast off the west of Ireland. I found imaginative similarities during a visit to the coast of Chababar in South-East Iran, listening to the waves crash against the shoreline. The opening of the composition transports the listener into the sea, towards an unilluminated horizon.

Celebration at Pasargadae

Pasargadae was the historic capital of the Achaemenid empire under Cyrus the Great (559–530 BCE) in Iran. The monumental opening is a musical description of the ancient broad steps, leading the listener from a sepulchre down to where an imagined crowd are celebrating the Persian new year. This composition commemorates an ancient tradition that takes place on the twenty-first of March to this day. A middle section leads the listener to an absolute sacred numinous sound world with a sudden rupture of mood.



Hormoz Farhat



Amir Mayhar Tafreshipour

Recorded at the Menuhin Hall, Cobham, Surrey, on 20/21 December 2019

Produced by Adaq Khan and Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour

Engineer: Adaq Khan

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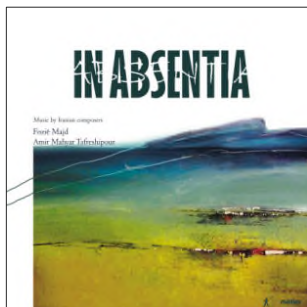
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Music for strings by Amir Mahyar Tafreshipour and Fozie Majd:



Majd:

Dreamland

Farāghi

Tafreshipour:

Pendar for solo violin

Broken Times

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Fiona Winning (viola)

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MSV 28576

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