

Amir Farid plays Javad Maroufi



Golden Dreams and other works

Javād Maroufi was one of the first composers of piano music in Persia and celebrated for his contribution to Persian classical music. He was born in Tehran to musician parents Musa Maroufi and Ezra Maroufi – both pupils of renowned master, Darvish Khan. Javad’s mother died when he was young, so he was raised by his father and taught violin and tar from a young age. At the age

of 14, he studied piano under the master Tatiana Kharatian and during that time, studied works by Chopin, Mozart, Beethoven and Bach. Javād Maroufi married at 18 with Shams Zamān. They had four children, two daughters — Sho’koozh-Zamān, also known as Giti, and Jilā — and two sons, Manouchehr and Farhād. He died on the morning of Tuesday 7 December 1993 in Tehran.

Ever since the release of *Veiled Virtuosity*, my first solo album on the Move Records label, it has been apparent that the inclusion of two of Javad Maroufi’s works for piano on that album proved to be popular amongst listeners. It was when my good friend Richard Mitchell approached me with the idea to devote an entire album to Maroufi’s output that this project came to life.

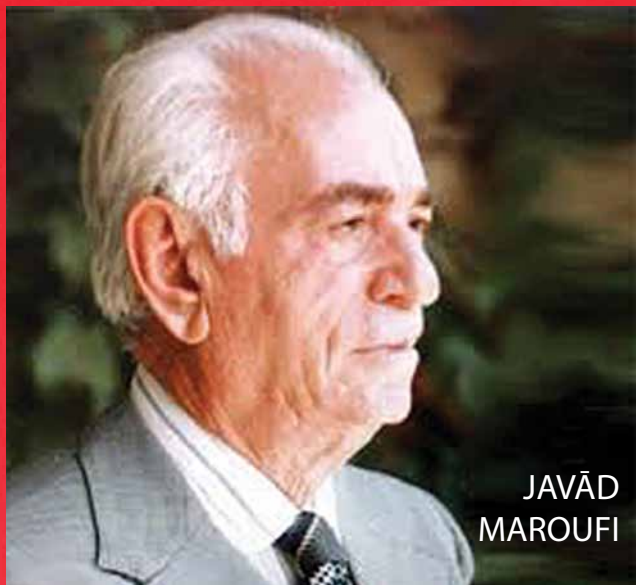
Working on this project has made me realise how engrained Maroufi’s work has been in my own life, and within Persian (Iranian) culture in general. Several of his works were amongst the first I ever performed in public as a child, and his recordings would constantly be playing in the household. Being exposed to the sounds of Maroufi throughout my life

has made this project both a joy and an immense challenge. After years of intense training as a Classical pianist, it has been difficult to realise the authentic folk-like roots of Maroufi’s work without the interference of other influences. Although the Western influences on Maroufi’s music are apparent and obvious, especially the works of Chopin, it is the fusion with traditional Persian music that truly makes this pioneering composer’s work unique.

I must add that although a lot of his music is indeed notated and published, they only serve as a very rough guide to the final product heard in Maroufi’s playing, and arguably in any successful performance of his work. The improvisatory and freestyle aspect is an essential part of his

music, and the challenge here lies in going beyond what’s on the page, while never drifting too far to make the work unidentifiable. Right-hand tremolos, heard frequently throughout this album, imitate the *Santur*, a Persian dulcimer. This technique (not without its RSI-related challenges!) is engrained in Maroufi’s playing style, as is his gifted ability to freely improvise in a style similar to that heard in a traditional Persian ensemble.

My aim has been to replicate this style as authentically as possible, but not without my own insights and influences. I hope this album brings as much pleasure to you as a listener as it did to me during its creation.



JAVĀD
MAROUFI



AMIR
FARID

Winner of the 2006 Australian National Piano Award, Iranian-Australian pianist **Amir Farid** has been described as “a highly creative musician – a pianist of great intelligence and integrity. He brings strong musical substance to all that he does, imbuing it with his own particular experience and understanding”, and who “in a well-populated field...distinguishes himself for all the right reasons”.

Throughout his career, Amir has been working and developing under the guidance of Professor Ronald Farren-Price, with whom he completed a Bachelor of Music (Honours) and Master of Music degree at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. He also attended the Australian National Academy of Music where he studied

with Rita Reichman, Geoffrey Tozer and Timothy Young. In 2009, he graduated with distinction as a Scholar supported by the Gordon Calway Stone Memorial Award at the Royal College of Music London, studying with Andrew Ball.

He has performed concerti with the Sydney Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, Australian Youth Orchestra, Melbourne Youth and ANAM Orchestras, including Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl with the Melbourne Symphony in front of a capacity 13,000 strong crowd.

As a chamber musician, Amir is pianist of the acclaimed Benaud Trio (www.benaudtrio.com), winning the Piano Trio

prize at the 2005 Australian Chamber Music Competition, and with whom he undertook a residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. As an accompanist, he was winner of the prize for best pianist at the 2012 and 2006 Mietta Song Competitions, and the 2007 Geoffrey Parsons Award. In 2013 he was awarded the inaugural Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust Repetiteur scholarship.

Amir is the recipient of various awards and scholarships, including the Australian Music Foundation, the Ian Potter Cultural Trust, the Royal Overseas League, the Swiss Global Artistic Foundation, the Tait Memorial Trust and the University of Melbourne's Donovan Johnson Memorial Scholarship.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Richard Mitchell (The Dream Cave)

Gwendolen De Lacy (The Dream Cave)

Melissa Coppin

Robert Vanderhope

Brian Richie (MONA FOMA)

Liner notes: Amir Farid

Photographer: Trudy Shuringa

Album design: Richard Mitchell

Recording and editing: Vaughan McAlley

Mastering: Martin Wright

Recorded at Move Records studio

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- 1** Armenian Rhapsody 4'37"
- 2** Fantasia 5'54"
- 3** Golden Dreams 4'23"
- 4** Chargah-e-Esfehan 8'35"
- 5** Rumi 1'51"
- 6** Jila's Fantasy 5'08"
- 7** Kuku 6'42"
- 8** Prelude No. 1 3'35"
- 9** Prelude No. 2 4'02"
- 10** Prelude No. 3 6'05"
- 11** Prelude No. 4 3'55"
- 12** Prelude No. 5 3'57"
- 13** Pish Daramad-e-Esfehan 2'34"
- 14** Sari Galineh 2'52"

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