

## **Nageeb Gardizi - from Afghanistan to Germany**

Nageeb Gardizi was born in Gardez, Afghanistan in 1978. He is number two of the children with an older and a younger sister. Although neither his father, a U.S.-educated Afghan career diplomat or his mother, a dental doctor, had any musical background, Nageeb started his first steps into the world of music at the age of 3. His interest for musical events and sounds arose as he listened to the tunes of Afghan folk-music and tried to imitate these sounds on the "Harmonia", a main instrument in Afghan classical music of Indian origin. It is comparable to a European "Harmonium". However, the sounds are produced by the left hand only, instead of pedal use. The right hand plays on a low-ranged keyboard, which is the same as on the piano. Although he didn't have the chance to take lessons until many years later, he was already at this early age fascinated by music.

The invasion of Soviet troops in 1979 forced the family to leave Afghanistan. They first went to India in 1981, and lived there for about 6 months. The father went direct to Germany and in 1982, the whole family got together there and settled in Cologne.

Nageeb started his first piano lessons in Cologne, and soon his love for the piano became clear. At the age of 6 he entered the "Humboldt" musical school in Cologne and changed to a private teacher two years later. He now learned the basics of the European classical music notation system. It is fair to say that his urge to become a classical pianist was already established at this early stage.

In 1989 he was admitted the Music-School of Cologne (former Conservatory) and studied with Eberhard Donner, who again had studied with a pupil of Ferruccio Busoni. In 1990 his first concert activities began and he got his first press reviews by the local press. In 1994 and 1996, he took part at the competition "Jugend Musiziert", where he won the first prize in his home state Northrhine Westphalia. In 1997 he was soloist in Rachmaninov's 2nd piano-concerto at the Conservatory of Music in Cologne and had his first Solo-recital one year later with works by Alban Berg, Frédéric Chopin, Anton Webern, Orlando Gibbons and Sergej Prokofiev. In 1998 he entered the Conservatory of Music in Dusseldorf, studying with Roberto Szidon until 2002.

Meanwhile, his concert activities began to spread all over Germany. He also worked with some great musicians, such as Matthias Goerne (accompany), Alexandre Rabinovitch and Leonard Hokanson (chamber music). In 2001 he played in the "Robert-Schumann"-Saal in Dusseldorf.

In 2002 he had his first performances of contemporary pieces as a soloist. He was also awarded the 3rd prize at the international "Wolfgang-Jacobi" competition 2002 for contemporary music in Munich. In 2004 he took part in the international "Gaudeamus" – competition in Amsterdam.

In 2003 he performed at the "Tonhalle" in Dusseldorf and was awarded the "Live Music Now" – scholarship of the Yehudi Menuhin Society, London. In 2004 he was the artistic director of Gluck's "Orfeo and Euridice" in Dusseldorf with the ensemble "Oper im Atelier". He also gave recitals at the "Schumannhaus" in Bonn and performed at Exhibitions of the German painter Joerg Immendorff. He also took part in the "Bremer Klavierwettbewerb" and got fair press reviews in the local press.

Since 2002 the variety of his concert activities and projects are documented in several live-recordings and studio-productions.

Since 2003 Nageeb Gardizi has a duo together with Mrs. Wardy Hamburg, a saxophone performer from the Netherlands. Together they recorded a CD with the title "Undulations" on Triton Records.

In 2006 Nageeb Gardizi also made his debut in the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

For the autumn season of 2006 a series of four concerts took place at Neumarkt, a district of the inner city of Cologne. In 2007 there are five Neumarkt-Concerts with Nageeb Gardizi as artistic director.