



YERKESH SHAKEYEV

Composer, lyricist and songwriter Yerkesh Shakeyev was born in Kazakhstan. During his early years he lived in a village where there was no music school. However, Yerkesh received lessons from a private teacher on an instrument called a 'Bayan' – a three-row Russian accordion. After his teacher left the village, Yerkesh taught himself the guitar. His first musical interests were traditional bard songs as well as popular hits. He wrote more than 300 lyrics and more than 250 melodies for songs, which were performed by many popular artists throughout Eastern Europe and the CIS countries. Over time his interests developed towards neo-classical works for symphony orchestras. He received many prestigious awards, not only in his own country, but in Australia, the United Kingdom and the CIS countries.

In 2014, Yerkesh recorded 12 compositions with the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) in the famous Abbey Road and Air Studios, conducted by Gavin Sutherland (UK). The sound producer of these compositions was Alexander Van Ingen (the leading specialist of the DECCA Classics Company). On the 17th of January 2015, an official presentation of Yerkesh's music was carried out at St. Luke's Concert Hall. This concert was performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. It was conducted by the chief conductor of the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Lior Shambadal. The concert was broadcasted live on the Internet. In March 2016, Yerkesh recorded 12 pieces with the famous British pianist, John Lenehan. Recording of the album took place at Abbey Road Studios and was produced by Jonatan Allen (BAFTA Winner). The album is called: 'Celestial' and was released through CDbaby distributor along internet platforms like spotify and Apple music in 2017. In September of 2016, Yerkesh recorded 17 compositions for the cello and piano. The famous British cellist, Alexander Bailey and the pianist, John Lenehan took part in recording these pieces. The sound producer was Chris Craker (nominee for The Grammy Awards). The album was produced by Yerkesh's son - Safar, who tragically died on 16th of July 2016 in the age of twenty-four. Safar was a young and ambitious filmmaker who graduated from the famous American University "Chapman."

In January 2017 Yerkesh recorded 16 compositions with the London Metropolitan Orchestra and the 'London Voices' choir. The sound producer was Winner of The Grammy Awards - Steve McLaughlin (conducted by Andy Brown). In May 2017, at Abbey Road Studios, Yerkesh recorded 10 more pieces with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. This recording was conducted by Richard Balcombe (UK). The sound producer was Chris Cracker.

On 2nd of June 2018, there was a presentation of Yerkesh's album called: 'Waves from Heaven.' This album was performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall (London) and was conducted by David Firman (UK). The album has received a lot of praise from music critics around the world. The music was performed by the famous British violinist, Winner of Brit Awards, Chloe Hanslip and the famous Croatian pianist Maxim Mrvica, who also included a piece "Remember Me" in his new album 'The New Silk Road.'

Yerkesh inherited his love of music from his father who was a famous folk songwriter—akyn. Akyns are representatives of very rare art in the world, where singer- improvisers compete in impromptu eloquence accompanying themselves with popular instrument dombra for many hours. Currently, the art of "Aitys" was included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO.

In search of his philosophy, Yerkesh climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and went on an expedition to the North Pole. He has been awarded a black belt of the fifth dan, for his contribution to the development of karate and the hymn he wrote for the Asian Karate Federation are performed at all international competitions in Asia.



OLIVER POOLE

Oliver believes in making the world a better place through music. Hailed by the press as "A True Master of His Instrument" (BBC.com), "Outrageously Talented" (The Dubrovnik Times), "Oliver Poole Le Magnifique" (L'Orient-Le Jour), he has thrilled audiences around the world, from leading stages to millions for live TV concerts, with his uniquely phenomenal artistry, electrifying drive and sensational interactive improvisations.

Oliver first appeared as a soloist with the British National Youth Orchestra at the age of eight, was broadcast live over Europe aged fifteen, performed for the British Royal family and gave a historic centenary revival of Anton Rubinstein's 3rd piano concerto with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic aged nineteen, with performances around the world since, including with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Royal Albert Hall, Al Bustan Festival, Henley Festival, The Barbican, London 2012 Olympic Games, Tsinandali Festival, Cadogan Hall, EU Culture Week, Expo 2020 Dubai and for charities including the UN World Food Programme, Teenage Cancer Trust, Katie Piper Foundation, HemiHelp, Starlight Foundation and Desire Tree Foundation.

Oliver frequently collaborates with today's biggest musical figures and has composed for pop artists, visual artists, international charities & initiatives, enjoys giving masterclasses and pioneers world-firsts in music technology. He composed the music for 2015 Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich's play 'Enchanted by Death,' served as artist in residence and patron of The Opus Theatre, UK and is an artist of Emma for Peace, a non-profit organisation that promotes music diplomacy. He has also performed for brands such as Zara and Loro Piana, as well as exclusively for the global launch of Haig Club by David Beckham. Oliver was also one of several international artists, including Beyoncé, to perform at the Ambani wedding in India, with Grammy and Oscar winner A.R. Rahman.

In May 2022, Oliver served as youth ambassador for the International Composers Festival, later that year he returned to Sky Arts for a holiday special show with Carly Paoli, Joseph Calleja and Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, and in 2023 completed recording a new piano concerto with Grammy winners Czech National Symphony Orchestra.