

Christiane Karam



Born and raised in war-torn Beirut, Lebanon Christiane's unique vocal style stems from her love for different musical traditions. She is the founder & leader of the award-winning ZilZALA Ensemble, which blends classical, traditional, and folk music from different regions of the Middle East and the Balkans with contemporary jazz. She is also the leader of the acclaimed Pletenitsa Balkan Choir. She has had the privilege of sharing the stage with the likes of Yanka Rupkina, Hüsnü Senlendirici, Javier Limon, the NY Gypsy All-Stars, Ran Blake, Jamey Haddad, the Assad Brothers, Binka Dobрева, Javier Limón & Bobby McFerrin. She has performed at venues & festivals such as Carnegie Hall, Summerstage, Celebrate Brooklyn!, Symphony Space, the Koprivshitsa Festival, Casa Araba & the Moscow International House of Music among others. She appeared in the 2007 PBS documentary film "The Music Instinct: Science & Song", featuring Bobby McFerrin, Daniel Levitin, Oliver Sacks, Yo-Yo Ma, & Daniel Barenboim. She has also been featured on VH1. In addition to performing, Christiane is an award-winning songwriter & film composer. Christiane's latest release 'Eastern Tapestries', celebrates the different vocal traditions of the Middle East, the Balkans & Central Asia, and ranges from traditional renditions to contemporary improvisations. Christiane is also a staunch activist for cultural understanding, tolerance, & nonviolent conflict resolution. She was honored by Berklee in 2001 for her "outstanding contribution to international goodwill & understanding" for a multinational peace concert she produced in the aftermath of 9/11. Currently on the faculty of Berklee College of Music as an Associate Professor in Voice Ensemble and Songwriting, she is the founder & leader of the Berklee Annual Middle Eastern Festival, & actively continues her work of bringing awareness & Positive Social Change through music & the arts. Christiane also performs & teaches around the world & is on the faculty of the Omega Institute, as a co-leader of the Circlesongs workshop, alongside Bobby McFerrin & members of Voicestra.

Awards



'I'm Alive'- 1st Prize Winner, 2001
USA Songwriting Competition
Recognition Award for Contribution to
Goodwill and Understanding, 2001
Berklee College of Music
'Look Up to the Sky'- Finalist, 2002
USA Songwriting Competition
'Breathe'- Honorable Mention, 2002
USA Songwriting Competition
SESAC Award, Berklee College of Music, 2003
'Place in the Sun' Finalist, 2003
John Lennon Songwriting Contest
'Look Up to the Sky' Runner Up, 2003
John Lennon Songwriting Contest
'Tell Me a Story', Finalist, 2006
USA Songwriting Competition
ZilZALA, Runner Up, Best world music act
Phoenix Readers Poll, 2006
ZilZALA nominated Best world music act
Phoenix Readers Poll, 2007
'Songs of the People',
Best traditional album Nominee
10th Annual Independent Music Awards, 2010
'Wahda/We are all One', Finalist, 2013
USA Songwriting Competition
2 Latin Grammy Nominations for
José Mercé's 'Mi Unica Llave'
featuring the Pletenitsa Balkan Choir, 2013
'Balkan Dance', Best song
in the World Beat Category nominee,
13th Annual Independent Music Awards, 2013
'Wahda/We Are All One' Finalist
International Songwriting Competition, 2014

'Since meeting Christiane Karam, a new musical world has opened for me. She is one of the most important voices in Mediterranean music today. Not only is she a great vocalist and composer but she also has a very special artistic vision.'
-Javier Limon (7 time Latin Grammy Winner)

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