

PRESS INVITATION

TEODOR DORÉ LAUNCHES ALBUM PORTRAITS OF CITIES

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 7.30pm

Ladbroke Hall

**76 Barlby Road, London W10 6AZ
Tube: Ladbroke Grove**



Doors open at 6.30pm

**Teodor Doré – composer, piano, darbuka (Ukraine)
Marco Marotta – saxophone (Italy)
Jihad Darwish – sitar (India)
Filippo Galli – percussion (Italy)
Nadine Nagen – violin (UK)
Indrani Saha – vocals (India)
Taim Saleh – vocals (Syria)**

"Doré has perfectly captured the feel of each city."

Michael Binyon from **The Times**

About "The Sun over the Bosphorus" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwDM5qmOOX8>

Pianist and composer Teodor Doré, aka Fyodor Biryuchev an émigré from Crimea, launches his latest album **Portraits of Cities**, at London's newest boutique concert venue Ladbroke Hall in North Kensington on **Wednesday 22 May**. **Portraits of Cities** presents urban soundscapes of Istanbul, Helsinki, Beirut, Bombay, Manhattan and Moscow, many recorded in situ. Born on the Crimean peninsula, a confluence between East and West and now resident in London, Doré spent the last 3 years wandering between these cities seeking out local musicians to collaborate on the album.

Seamlessly blending piano melodies with traditional instruments, field recordings, and avant-garde electronic elements, Doré has created a sophisticated melodic fusion that captures the atmosphere of each metropolis.

Doré has united an eclectic ensemble of instruments, including the qanun, sitar, darbuka, clarinet, double bass, violin, bassoon, drums, and captivating Indian and Middle Eastern vocals. The talented instrumentalists and vocalists hail from the UK, Ukraine, Italy, Egypt, Syria, and India, promising a rich and vibrant cultural fusion on disc and on stage.

Highlights include **The Sun Over The Bosphorus** meticulously crafted at Istanbul's renowned Babajim Studio with Turkish musicians, integrating traditional instruments like the oud, yayli tambur, darbuka, and riq, accompanied by haunting Sufi vocals. **A Rainy Day In Manhattan** draws inspiration from the cinematic masterpieces of Woody Allen and the timeless melodies of Ella Fitzgerald.

Night In Bombay, featuring the sitar, tabla and Indian harmonium, evokes the cities ineffable and mystical aura, interwoven with the sounds of nocturnal jungle insects and distant power plant beeps and **Spring In Barcelona** begins with a few unassuming notes heard in the subway, where Doré noticed the modest chime preceding the station announcements, moving in to bold flamenco-like guitar.

For the London performance, Doré has invited musicians **Marco Marotta - saxophone, Jihad Darwish - sitar, Filippo Galli - percussion, Nadine Nagen - violin, Indrani Saha and Taim Saleh - qanun and vocals**, to join him on the stage of Ladbroke Hall.

Teodor explains,

"In Beirut, I researched local folklore and Arabic harmonies and working with local musicians who play on traditional Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian instruments, with the aim of creating compositions that would present the East to the listener in different ways: as a magical fairy-tale, as a paradise garden, but also as a place of religious, political and social controversy. I wanted to portray how I was drawn to and felt a connection to the East, which comes from my Crimean roots and my fascination with Crimean Tatar culture; I tried to touch the Lebanese life hidden from the eyes of outsiders, to understand and reflect on it.

As someone who has had the good fortune to live in many locations over the past five years, travel extensively, and learn about the cultures, traditions, and music

of other nations, I can say that I consider myself a citizen of the globe, and my home is the entire planet. I speak five languages, but the sixth is the universal one – it is the language of music, which I believe provides a unique opportunity to rise above borders, above religions and nationalities, above political and social contradictions, above all dead systems – above everything that divides us.”

Doré's next album will be **Rachmaninoff Variations**, recently recorded at Abbey Road Studios. Inspired by Rachmaninov's experience as an émigré with its parallels today, the album explores the pain of losing a homeland and finding hope in a new one.

Notes To Editors

PORTRAIT 1 When the angels speak, Moscow sleeps: This composition finds its muse in the ethereal exchanges among celestial beings in Wim Wenders' cinematic masterpiece, "Wings of Desire." It endeavours to articulate the notion that in the contemporary tapestry of Moscow, where the relentless rhythm of daily existence prevails, the angelic serenades, once whispered to have adorned the city, have faded into obscurity. Yet, within the very fabric of this piece, the ember of hope remains undiminished, insinuating that even amid the chaos and unpredictability, there lingers the potential for something profoundly exquisite and life-altering to transpire.

PORTRAIT 2, The Sun over the Bosphorus: This composition was meticulously crafted at Istanbul's renowned Babajim Studio, a cherished space for composer and pianist Fazil Say. Istanbul's multicultural ambiance deeply inspired him, leading to a collaborative project with Turkish musicians to breathe life into this musical masterpiece. Doré, shaped by his upbringing in Crimea, a region known for its diverse heritage, felt a profound connection to Istanbul's Eastern influences. As a result, he gracefully integrated traditional Turkish instruments like the oud, yayli tambur, darbuka, and riq into the composition, accompanied by haunting Sufi vocals. The piano, as always, remained the cornerstone of Doré's creative expression. In this fusion of cultures and melodies, this composition captures Istanbul's essence while conveying the enduring hope for beauty and transformation within life's chaos.

PORTRAIT 3, Train to Helsinki: The inaugural piece of an album conceived during a voyage from St. Petersburg to Helsinki in 2017, this composition intricately weaves the auditory tapestry of that journey. It encompasses the resonating echoes of the Allegro train's rumble and the spirited spiccato in the string section, cleverly mirroring the rhythmic cadence of rolling wheels. In a delightful addition to the composition, a Karelian-Finnish ensemble joined the recording, introducing the melodic charm of Finnish folk instruments, specifically the kantele, which further enriched the piece's cultural depth. The composition artfully encapsulates the evolving sensations and the ever-shifting natural landscape outside the train window during the journey. As the journey unfolds, it unveils the distinctive characteristics of the Finnish character that are interwoven with the passing scenery. Through each musical phrase, the composition paints a vivid sonic portrait of the Finnish countryside, mirroring its serene beauty, its deep connection to nature, and the sense of tranquility that seems to permeate the Finnish spirit. The subtle shifts in melody and rhythm correspond to the changing

vistas outside, whether it be the tranquil lakes reflecting the serene sky or the dense forests with their secrets concealed in the depths of emerald foliage.

PORTRAIT 4, Lebanese waltz: This composition exhibits a masterful fusion of musical elements, deftly blending traditional Lebanese instruments like the qanun, riq, and ney with the grace of a piano accompaniment reminiscent of 19th-century French waltzes. This artistic union weaves a captivating symphony that mirrors the multifaceted richness of Beirut's heritage. Each instrument contributes its distinctive timbre and cultural resonance. The qanun resonates with centuries of Middle Eastern melodies, the riq infuses intricate rhythms rooted in Lebanon's traditions, and the ney's haunting tones evoke ancient landscapes. All these elements, harmoniously interwoven with the piano's nostalgic waltz, create a musical narrative that encapsulates Beirut's unique identity. Adding depth is the use of the Arabic maqam bayati in the melody, deeply rooted in Arabic music heritage, evoking a sense of nostalgia and transporting the listener to the heart of old Beirut. In essence, this composition pays a heartfelt tribute to Beirut's cultural traditions, emphasizing the city's remarkable fusion of French and Arabic influences. It serves as a richly layered musical ode to the city's enduring legacy and captivating character, celebrating its ability to harmoniously merge diverse cultural elements into a harmonious whole.

PORTRAIT 5 Night in Bombay: This composition is a heartfelt dedication by composer to the extraordinary city that holds a special place in his heart - Bombay, dearly beloved by him. Incorporating a rich ensemble of instruments, including the sitar, tabla, Indian harmonium, vocals, piano, and the atmospheric sounds of the city's nocturnal life, the composition comes to life as a harmonious blend that captures the essence of Bombay's unique charm. Dore's experience of wandering through the city's streets on a winter's night left an indelible impression. During those hours, Bombay was imbued with an ineffable and almost mystical aura. This city serves as an endless source of inspiration, deserving to be celebrated not only through words but also through the universal language of music.

PORTRAIT 6, Rainy day in Manhattan: This composition is a captivating portrait of the bustling metropolis, drawing inspiration from the cinematic masterpieces of Woody Allen and the timeless melodies of Ella Fitzgerald. For Teodor, the city revealed its essence during an American tour, unfolding as a rainy yet luminous day in Manhattan. As the piano gently cascades like raindrops on a city sidewalk, the composition captures the dynamic energy and optimism synonymous with New York. Each note resonates with the vibrant spirit of the city, echoing through its bustling streets and towering skyscrapers. Through the evocative melodies and harmonies, listeners are transported to the heart of Manhattan, where dreams intersect with reality amidst the rhythmic pulse of urban life. "Rainy day in Manhattan" invites audiences to experience the magic of the city - a place where hope shines brightly, even on the cloudiest of days.

PORTRAIT 7, Bangkok has him now: This composition finds its muse in the unforgettable line from "Hangover 2," serving as a sonic journey into the kaleidoscopic realm of Bangkok. What makes it truly fascinating is the experimental collaboration with the accomplished Thai multi-instrumentalist, Mr. Thanatchaphon Khankaew, whose mastery of the saw u, jakay, khim, and ranat thum adds an extraordinary layer of depth and intrigue to this musical exploration of the city's soul. The composition skillfully incorporates various sonic elements,

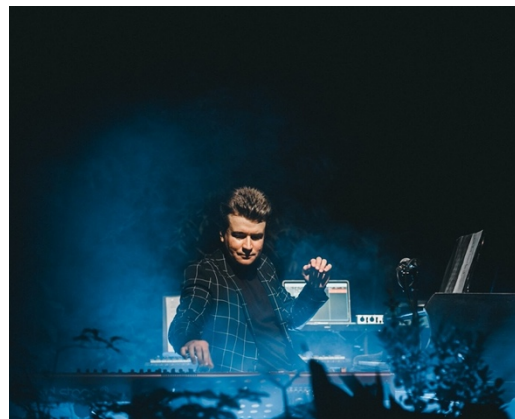
including the striking of the Bangkok tower's clock, which gradually builds and eventually seems to disrupt and still the momentum of the track's theme. It also weaves in recordings of coins clinking at the Wat Pho temple, the melodic cries of birds, the enchanting sounds of the night jungle, and the resonant gongs in monasteries. Furthermore, the composition's opening theme offers a unique twist, crafted during the COVID-19 pandemic using a prepared piano, where the sound emerges from the ingenious use of three masks, adding an innovative layer to the overall sonic tapestry.

PORTRAIT 8, The Spring in Barcelona: In the heart of this city of the “eternal spring” the composer found inspiration. It all began with a few unassuming notes heard in the subway. Each day, the bustling metro carried thousands of passengers who, amidst their daily routines, scarcely noticed the modest chime preceding the station announcements. Yet, for Teodor, those simple notes, forming an E major triad, held a profound significance. To the composer, a city transcends its physical elements—its structures, streets, and people. It possesses an intangible spirit, one that can be heard and conveyed through the language of music. Serendipity smiled upon Teodor as he uncovered this concealed musical treasure tucked away in the city's hidden alleys and corners. It serves as a poignant reminder that inspiration often dwells in the most unexpected places, even within the familiar sounds that typically go unnoticed in the tapestry of daily life. “The Spring in Barcelona” is a heartfelt love song dedicated to the sheer beauty of this magnificent city.

Teodor Doré

Teodor Doré, aka Fyodor Biryuchev, is a London-based pianist and composer and a distinguished graduate of the Liceu Conservatory celebrated for his exceptional musical talent and worldwide performances.

His interests span a wide spectrum, from collaborating on opera projects like *The Queen of Spades* with the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow (III Russian National Opera Award *Onegin*) to releasing 5 albums and performing over 150 concerts across five continents.



Teodor's portfolio also includes music for Bollywood movies, theatrical performances, orchestral suites, and various pieces for orchestra, string quartet, piano, etc. In the theater scene, Teodor's captivating music has been featured in two notable premieres: *Theatre of Gulags* in London and *Say That You Love Me* in Madrid, Buenos Aires, Stuttgart, and Narva.

His collaborations extend to working with esteemed conductors such as Fabio Mastrangelo, Nikolai Zinman, Andrei Rein, Manel Valdivieso, and Alexander Walker. Teodor has recently recorded his next album *Rachmaninoff Variations* at London's iconic Abbey Road Studios, showcasing his innovative reinterpretation of Rachmaninoff's legacy.

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