

## **Joëlle KHOURY**

Composer-Pianist

Born in Beirut, Lebanon

### **Contact:**

Home phone: +961 1 448483

Cell phone: +961 3 812959

E-mail: [Joëlle\\_khou@gmail.com](mailto:Joëlle_khou@gmail.com)

Website: [www.Joellek.com](http://www.Joellek.com)

Fonder of **IN-VERSION**, The Joëlle Khoury Quintet, a jazz ensemble dedicated to performing original music.

**Founder of the project: Meet the Composer**

### **Teaching:**

**Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music: Piano and Composition**  
(since 1997)

**AUB:** 3 courses: **1-** Survey of Western Music; **2-** Listening to Jazz; **3-** Philosophy and Music (new course).

**USJ** (Université pour tous) Music Appreciation (1 semester)

### **Studies:**

**Musicology and Economics** studies, BA, George Mason University, Va., USA.

**Masters in philosophy** Université St. Joseph, Beirut. Thesis titled "**being and music**".

**Piano** diploma, Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music.

**Lebanese University** "Ecole Doctorale", preparing a thesis in philosophy titled:  
*Théâtralité et Désir de Mort Créateur chez Gilles Deleuze.*

### **4 CDs:**

**1,2 Tumbling Up and Is It So!**, 2 jazz albums, In-Version, the Joelle Khoury Quintet. Joelle Khoury: piano and composition

**3- Music and Poetry:** 11 chamber orchestra and voice pieces, based on German romantic poetry (Goethe, Heine Novalis, Rilke). Sponsored by the Lebanese National Conservatory and the Goethe Institut Beirut. Joelle Khoury: piano and composition, Harout Fazlian: conductor

**4- Dream She Is**, an 55mn opera monodrama in Arabic. Chamber orchestra and electronics. Joelle Khoury: piano and composition, Fadia Tomb El Hage: voice, Harout Fazlian: conductor.

### **Extra-muros residencies:**

2 months scholarship –**EGIDE**, France: piano residency at Boulogne Billancourt conservatory (2002)

1month residency in Paris, Dijon and Lyon, “programme courant culture”, French Ministry of Culture, to prepare for course: Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (2004)

6 weeks residency, **Milkwood Artist Residency**, in collaboration with Freemuse International, Freedimensional, and Milkwood residencies, Czech republic, Nov. 2006.

**Rencontres de composition musicale à Cergy-Pontoise**”: a yearly event. Member of the jury, competition for young composers.

May-June 2011, Artist Resident, Prohevetia, **Villa Strauli, Switzerland**, sponsored by **Prohelvetia**.

**The MacDowell Colony**, NH, USA. Fellow, August 2013. One month.

### **Articles, Conferences & Workshops**

“**Time Goes One Way**” (against classification of art) [www.boell-meo.org](http://www.boell-meo.org)

“**About women composers** in the Arab world” (Freemuse conference) 2005  
<http://freedimensional.org/about/index.html>

“**My Body Myself and I**” conference in company of the Arab cultural journalists, (on a crisis of the subjectivity through the history of the music) Zawaya : 2006.

**John Cage**: Open Form (workshop and concert), with the Lebanese conservatory hosting Dr. Katharine Cartright, Fulbright. (2006)

“**Bach/Leibniz/Kandinsky: the Unique and the Multiple**” conference, Lebanese National Conservatory, December 2007

**Of Arab Composers Today**, written in the occasion of **AFAC**, the Arab Fund for Culture meeting 2011

**History a Divine Poem**: article commissioned by the Lucerne University, relating Bach to Leibniz. Published October 2015 for the inauguration of their new department: Music and Theology

## **COMPOSITIONS:**

**Reading Gaol**, Play with live music. Text by Oscar Wilde. Voice, saxophone, bass, piano, percussion. **Commissioned by Goethe Institut and Moawad Foundation**. Anniversary of human rights’ movement 2000

**Music and Poetry 2001-2002** (sponsored by Goethe Institut Beirut)

11 pieces, voice and chamber ensemble, based on poetry by Rilke, Heine, Goethe, Novalis, Nadia Tueini and George Shehade

**Broomsticks**, flute, clarinet, 2 violins, 2 cellos, bass, piano, timpani. Conductor Harout Fazlian. 6min. Assembly Hall, AUB, 2003

**Beirut Blues**, flute, bass, piano, percussion. 5 min.

**Hercile**, flute, viola, harp. 2004. Commissioned by Janus Trio, NY. 11 min

**Thought it was**, flute, viola, harp. 2004. Commissioned by Janus Trio, NY. 12 min.

**Americain concerto**, flute, harp, viola & orchestra. 2004. Commissioned by Janus Trio, NY. and Lebanese Symphony Orchestra. 15 min.

**Sleep**, Text by James Joyce. Choir, organ and timpani. Commissioned by **American University of Beirut** Choral Society for *Living Lebanese Composers* concert, Assembly Hall, 2004. 4 min.

**Soliloquy**, for Orchestra. Composed for Lebanese Symphony Orchestra. Performed May 2005, Saint Joseph Church, Beirut. Conductor Harout Fazlian. 13 min.

**Aaah!...**, text excerpts from **Virginia Woolf's** *Between the Acts*. Dedicated to John Cage, Open Form Composition concert, **Lebanese National Conservatory and Fulbright Program**. 2006. Voice (Katharine Cartwright), flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, 2 basses, piano, drums. Conductor Harout Fazlian. Graphic notation. 15 mn

**Morning Star**, Brass quintet. Commissioned by **Donne in Musica**, Italy, for Christmas concert 2006. 4.36 min.

### Poetry Recital: Senghor

Performance commissioned and sponsored by **Lebanese Ministry of Culture and French Cultural Center Beirut**. Dec. 28, 2006.

### REVE ELLE EST... 2007 - 2008

**Opera** monodrama for contralto, flute, violin, viola, violoncello, piano and electronics. Text in Arabic adapted by **Joëlle Khoury** based on various poems by **Jacques Aswad**. Commissioned by the non-profit organization **Quart de Ton** a.s.b.l.. 55 min. Performed in Beirut by *Ensemble fragments*; in Austria by **Kremerata Baltica**, and in Switzerland by *Ensemble TAG*.

**Electroésie** : for 3 voices, electronics, piano, saxophone and cello, based on texts by Lebanese poets : Jad Hatem, Rita Baddoura, Lougal Jazzar, Antoine Boulad, Etel Adnan, Gabrile Naffah, Georges Schéhadé. Commissioned by the **French Cultural Center Beirut**, June 2007. 30min.

**Christmas!** Commissioned by **American University of Beirut** vocal ensemble, for choir, piano, cello and violin, 4min.

**I walk alone**, for choir, electronics, piano, and reciting. Based on *The Waves* by **Virginia Woolf**. Commissioned by **AUB vocal ensemble Polyphonica**, concert dedicated to women composers, 7min.

**Rita Sous Les Bombes**, poetry and electronic music. Commissioned by **Dar Alsaqi** publication, book signing event. 30min.

**Les poètes témoignent**, March 21, 2008, in the occasion of *Printemps des Poètes*, commissioned by the « francophonie » delegate. 50 min of electroacoustic music to

accompany poetry recital commemorizing the various Lebanese wars. Monnot Theatre, Beirut. **Lebanese Ministry of Culture**

**Getting Along**, concerto for 2 marimbas and string orchestra. Commissioned by *Donne In Musica, Italy*. Performed May 2008 in Bari, Italy.

**Lap-Bop**, 3 compositions (BluesberryPie, Sugary Sweets and Jazz 58), electro-acoustic jazz for Piano, bass, drums and computer. Concert sponsored by French Cultural Center Beirut. The electronic of Sugary Sweets are based on Beethoven string quartets and symphonies. March 2008, Salle Montaigne, **Mission Culturelle Française, Beirut**.

**Electroesie 2** cello, piano, electronics, voice, film and acting. Based on a poem, **La Poesie**, by Lebanese poet Antoine Boulad. **French Cultural Center Beirut**

**Jocari** cello, piano, voice, electronics, film and dance. French Cultural Center Beirut and **Beirut Capital of the book 2010**. Based on texts by **Ethel Adnan, Jad Hatem** and Ritta Baddoura. Sponsored by the **Lebanese Ministry of Culture**

**Rechmayya** sound track for the dance performance by choreographer Alice Massabki. Based on a novel by Lebanese author Evelyne Sursok. **Beirut Book Capital of the World 2010**

**Beirut Berlin** a satirical 9mn electroacoustic pièce, including short text by Joelle Khoury and excerpts of local art related press articles. Used as sound track during the festival **Berlin Beirut** in Berlin, Dock 11.

4 pieces for **Meet The Composer 4 (Joelle Khoury and Mahmoud Turkmani meeting)**

- 1- **Beirut Blues Too**, tape, guitar, flute and oud, 4mns
- 2- **Loop for Mustafa**, tape, guitar, piano, flute and oud, 3mns
- 3- **Alone Together**, guitar, flute and oud, 4mns
- 4- **Cry Baby Cry**, tape, flute, guitar and oud, 5mns

**Alone Together 2** for Qanun, Cello and Violin. 7mns, Commissioned by the **Bayerischer Rundfunk**, recorded in Nurnberg, April 2011

**Shortages, 7mns**, composed for ensemble **Tag, Switzerland**, for Meet The Artist concert June 2011, Villa Srtauli, Winterthur. For Piano, flute, clarinet, viola and cello

**Mawlawi, 7.30 mns**, for Qanun, Voice, Cello, Piano and Percussion. Based on sufi poetry by Hallaj. Commissioned by ensemble **Atik**, Jordan. Recorded in Turkey, November 2012.

**Moods Rhythms and Changes**, 9mns for 3 percussionists, cello and piano. Commissioned by **Symblema Percussion, Paris**.

**Ya Ghzayel**: 5 mns, variation on Lebanese folk song, for flute and piano. Performed within the **Lebanese National Conservatory** chamber music series, February 2013, Auditorium Abou Khater, USJ.

**Variations On Imaginary Folk Dances**: a 5mn piece for voice and orchestra, sung in Arabic, based on 4 Arabic folk songs. Commissioned and performed by **Kremerata Baltica** in Esterhazy Festival, May 2012

**Just Hold Me Tight:** 9 mn, solo violin. A piece experimenting with mixing oriental scales and contemporary atonal music. Recorded December 2012

**Arabian Fantasy In Blue,** an 8 mn piece for flute, cello and piano. Commissioned by **Meinenger Trio** and the **Bavarian radio**. Mixing old Arabic folk songs with contemporary music and jazz. Recorded October 2013. Label **NAXOS**

**Of Memories Folks and I** for orchestra and voice, based on the Arabic song : Ah Ya Zein. Premiered May 2013 by the Lebanese Philharmonic. Strings orchestra version performed by **Kremerata Baltica** in Bavaria, Germany, May 28 and 29, 2014 (8mn)

**Palais de Femmes** (1), commissioned by **Festival de la Voix, Paris**, performed by Ensemble **2E2M**, April 28, 2014. Voice, chamber ensemble and sound track, based on the lives and works of famous women in history (Virginia Woolf, Marguerite Duras, Nadia Tueini, Electra, Camille Claudel...etc.

**Palais de Femmes** (2), 50 mn, for electronics, piano, video and dancer. Sponsored by **British Council** Beirut, **Institut Francais** and **Goethe Institut**.

**Hya Llati**, 6 mn. Part of a double album anthology of **living Lebanese composers**, to be recorded in Belgium, April 2016. For voice, piano, cello, violin and flute. Based on a poem by Lebanese Author Sabah Zwein.