

## Nat Yontararak



Nat is a Silpathorn Artist (since 2006), an award for outstanding contemporary artist given by the Ministry of Culture, and Steinway Artist (since 2003).

Recognized for his compositions, he had presented and world premiered his own compositions on many important occasions. Many of which were presided over by the Thai royal family members.

He has written 3 piano Sonatas:

- No.1 "*Glory to our Great Kings*" on the occasion of the late HM King Bhumibol's Golden Jubilee of His Accession to the Throne.

It was premiered in 1994 at the main hall, Thailand Cultural Centre presided over by the President of the Privy Council to the King, General Prem Tinsulanonda, as a royal representative of HM Queen Sirikit. The Sonata was repeated in 1995 as part of a concert in celebration of the late HM King Bhumibol's Golden Jubilee with the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra presided over by HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

- No.2 "*Homage to King Rama IX*" on the occasion of the late HM King Bhumibol's 6<sup>th</sup> cycle of His Birthday. It was premiered in 1999 at the main hall, Thailand Cultural Centre presented by The Ministry of Culture.

- No.3 "*Siam Sonata*" on the occasion of the late HM the King's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was premiered in 2002 at the

main hall, Thailand Cultural Centre presided over by the late Princess Galyani Vadhana.

He had written music in dedication to HM Queen Sirikit entitled "*Rose of Love*" on the occasion of Her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was premiered in the presence of HM the Queen at Napalai Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel.

He also dedicated "*Grande Valse Romantique*" for HRH the late Princess Galyani Vadhana's 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday which was premiered in 2007 as part of the "Royal Gala" Concert. The concert was presided over by HRH Princess Chulabhorn as a royal representative of HM the Queen.

Later in 2008, Nat dedicated an elegy "*L'Adieu*" for the passing of HRH the late Princess Galyani Vadhana. Recently, he wrote an elegy "*Sine 'Quo' Non*" in dedication to the late HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej who passed away on Oct 13, 2016.

Nat Yontararak has been arranging music of Royal Compositions, Thai songs and liturgical compositions for piano solo, piano duets, and piano and harp as well.

He has made 17 arrangements (out of 48) of the late HM the King's royal compositions for piano solo which some have been used as the compulsory pieces for the Siam International Piano Competition in order to promote HM the King's music since 2009.

He has been arranging original compositions of General Prem Tinsulanonda, President of the Privy Council to the King. On the occasion of Nat's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his career (as pianist, composer, teacher and architect), the family gave a family concert featuring his new arrangements of General Prem Tinsulanonda's compositions on piano solo, duets, two-pianos and Piano & Harp at Sala Sudasiri Sobha (Concert hall designed by himself) where General Prem also presided over the event. In September 2016, the Yontararak family gave a launching concert with 10 arrangements of Gen. Prem's compositions by Nat Yontararak as a birthday gift for Gen. Prem 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As a concert pianist, he has toured across Europe as well as the United States, representing Thailand through Thai music with his piano compositions on an international stage. Some of the events were in 1999, he was invited to perform for the Gala opening concert of the Kunming International Festival of the Arts in China with Kunming Symphony Orchestra. In 2011, he was invited to perform his piano sonata in Jastrzebia Gora, Poland for the inauguration of Jastrzebia Gora's music festival with Krzysztof Penderecki, one of Poland's greatest living composer, attending the event.

Last May 2017, he toured across Europe with the team of Thai traditional dancers from Christian Communications Institute on the occasion of 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of King Rama V's Grand Tour to Europe and to pay tribute to HM King Rama IX under the name "Homage to The Great Thai Kings" performing his own compositions (*Sine Quo Non* & *Siam Sonata*) as well as his own arrangements of royal compositions (*Love in Spring*, *Somewhere Somehow*, *Oh I Say*). The tour across 7 countries: Italy, Switzerland, France Belgium, Germany, Poland and England. Thanks to the success of this tour, Nat Yontararak and the team are invited to perform as part of the Bahrain Summer Festival to celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Bahrain & Thailand last August 5, 2017. This October 22, 2017, he is invited by the World Milal Missionary Choir to be the guest artist of The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World Milal Missionary Choir at the Isaac Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall, New York. He will premiere his newest arrangement of a christian hymn "*Jesus Loves Me*" for piano four-hand with orchestra performing with his son, Pana.

Most of his concerts are charity concerts raising funds for various organizations such as "Treasure Our Elephants Funds", "the Christian Communications Institute, Payap University", "The Bone Marrow Transplant Club, Chulalongkorn Hospital", "The Gift of Life Foundation" and many more.

As a pedagogue, he founded his own music school since 1985 called "*Nat Music School*", known as "*Nat Studio*", after finishing his music studies from Goldsmith's College, University of London and master degree in Piano performance at Reading university under the tutelage of Gwenneth Pryor and Philip Fowke, British leading artists. The school has produced qualified students who became professional musicians and professors in various music faculty of leading institutions in Thailand. Today his son, Pana, a music graduate from Francesco Morlacchi Conservatory, Perugia, Italy; along with his two daughters, Paranee & Pinnaree, latter being a licensed music therapist graduated from Roehampton University, London, UK, are among assistant teachers of the school.

Graduated his bachelor degree in Architecture, he designed and built his own concert hall, "*Sala Sudasiri Sobha*", in dedication to late H.H. Princess Sudasiri Sobha, his patroness. The hall actively organizes its own concert series with Paranee & Pinnaree as co-managers of the hall. The mission of Sala Sudasiri Sobha aims to present young Thai artists with the best conditions and environment for public exposure. Since 2016, Sala Sudasiri Sobha has launched "*Sala Sudasiri Sobha Funds for Young Thai Talents*" for those who would like to contribute for this mission. The venue has been collaborating with many embassies such as Polish, Italian, Israeli, French, Czech, Hungarian and Greek by presenting their prominent artists on various special occasions.

In recognition of his dedication to classical music and charity work, together with his wife, Pawongduen, they were awarded with the Decoration of Honour "Meritorious for Polish Culture" from the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage in December 2015. The event was hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland at the Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental hotel.

Last March 29, 2018 Nat Yontararak received his second decoration of honour from the Italian government "*Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia*" (Knight of the Order of the star of Italy). The event was hosted by the Embassy of Italy at the Italian Ambassador's residence.