

AMIR KHOSROWPOUR

Praised by The Los Angeles Times as having “irresistible verve, unpretentious directness, and fingers of steel,” pianist and composer Amir Khosrowpour “seeks out what is new and vital and delivers it with passion, considerable drama, and poetry” (NY Concert Review). His focus is new music, as well as improvisation, and he incorporates both in his concert programming. A 2014 solo recital at Irvine Valley College in California consisted of music written solely after 1975, including several works by student composers and John Adams’s masterpiece, Phrygian Gates. In 2011, he performed in an Allora&Calzadilla performance art exhibition at MoMA in New York in which the pianist stands in a hole cut out of the middle of the piano and plays Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony finale from the opposite side of the keyboard. The work was on The New York Times “Top 10”, and has since taken Khosrowpour to Turin and Milan for exhibitions. In a 2012 collaboration with Turin-based filmmaker and artist Simone Catania, Khosrowpour performed his own composition for piano in a fog-filled Noire Gallery whilst hanging from the ceiling.

As a company composer for NYC’s The Actors Company Theatre, Khosrowpour has scored for fifteen of their readings and productions. He is working with playwrights Andrea Thome and Edith Freni on two musicals (one has zombies in it), and has collaborated with several NYC dance companies including Nicoll+Oreck, the Sokolow Ensemble, and the 92Y Harkness Dance Center. His piano duo, Corky Has a Band (with pianist David Broome), creates and performs concerts combining contemporary music, improvisation, vaudeville, and theatrical elements. Their show “PowerHour” involves 60 one-minute pieces and 60 shots of beer. In addition, they have produced four music videos (one about the alphabet, another covering a Die Antwoord song) and two albums.

As an educator, Khosrowpour serves on faculty at The Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy and Camp MSM at Manhattan School of Music. He has also developed multi-media presentations for an advanced video-conferencing program called Distance-Learning at Manhattan School of Music, working with students in New York State, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, Florida, Ohio, and even Norway and Scotland.

After graduating with Distinction from the University of Kansas, earning a B.M. in Piano and Composition, Khosrowpour continued his piano studies at Manhattan School of Music, completing the Master of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees. He is most thankful for his mentors, Scott McBride Smith, Jack Winerock, and Phillip Kavin.

He lives in The Bronx with his Steinway (won in a 2002 competition), his fat black cat (found in a Bronx park), and his fiancé (coerced in her Iowa hometown).