

## **Kamilla Arku, piano**

### **LONG BIO (388 words)**

Displaying an artistry that “provides a space to breathe and take in the world around us,” (Culture is Free) Liberian-Norwegian pianist Kamilla Arku draws on her diverse background as inspiration for her work as a performer, scholar and educator. She gave her London debut recital at the renowned 'Pianists of the World' series at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in 2013, and has since performed as a soloist and chamber musician in the US, Europe and Africa. Recent highlights include performances for Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center, Lyric Opera of Chicago, MoMA PS1, the Royal Opera House, the International Florence Price Festival, and Works & Process at the Guggenheim. Her latest release is a collaboration with composer Dameun Strange out on the nonclassical label. In the 2023-24 season Kamilla also joined Madonna’s “Celebration Tour” as a piano coach and teacher.

Kamilla has appeared on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio London and performed chamber music artists such as Stephen Kovacevich, Karen Slack, April Koyejo Audiger and the Ivalis Quartet. Kamilla is passionate about introducing audiences to lesser-known repertoire, and regularly programmes music by women composers and composers of colour. She also performs her own works, and has given world and European premieres of works by Lainie Fefferman, Olivia Jones, Shara Lunon and Tara Creme, among others. Her interdisciplinary collaborations include projects with visual artists Jordan Söderberg Mills and Amale Freiha Khat, choreographer Claudia Schreier, and filmmaker Patrick Hamm.

In addition to performing, Kamilla is committed to volunteer efforts, and is the founder and Director of Music for Liberia, a nonprofit supporting young people in Liberia through music-based fundraising. For her nonprofit work, she was awarded a Jack Petchey Award for service to young people, and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf commended her and Music for Liberia for their 'generosity and compassion to help us address a critical problem.'

Kamilla is a graduate of Yale University and the Royal Northern College of Music, and an alumna of the International Musicians' Seminar at Prussia Cove, the Britten-Pears Young Artists Programme, the London Masterclasses and the International Contemporary Ensemble's Ensemble Evolution. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Musicology at New York University. Her most recent publication is for *Women & Music: A Journal of Gender & Culture* and she looks forward to a publication co-written by musicologist Suzanne Cusick in Cambridge University Press in 2026.

## **SHORT BIO (203 words)**

Liberian-Norwegian pianist **Kamilla Arku** draws on her diverse background as inspiration for her work as a performer and educator. She has appeared as a soloist and collaborative pianist in Europe, Africa and North America, and has recently performed for the Royal Opera House, Chamber Music at Lincoln Center, the Intercultural Music Initiative, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, MoMA PS1, and Music for Liberia. Her latest release is a collaboration with composer Dameun Strange out on the nonclassical label, and in the 2023-24 season she also joined Madonna's "Celebration Tour" as a piano coach and teacher.

Kamilla has appeared on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio London; performed chamber music with musicians such as Stephen Kovacevich, Karen Slack, April Koyejo-Audiger and the Calidore Quartet; and collaborated with visual artists Jordan Söderberg Mills and Amale Freiha Khlal and filmmaker Patrick Hamm. Kamilla is passionate about introducing audiences to lesser-known repertoire, and regularly programs music by women composers and composers of color.

Kamilla is the founder and Director of charity Music for Liberia, a non-profit supporting young people in Liberia. She is a graduate of Yale University and the Royal Northern College of Music, and is currently a PhD student in Musicology at New York University.

## **CRISP BIO (114 words)**

Liberian-Norwegian pianist **Kamilla Arku** draws on her diverse background as inspiration for her work as a performer, educator, and scholar. She has recently performed for the Royal Opera House, the Lyric Opera House of Chicago, Chamber Music at Lincoln Center, the African Concert Series, and MoMA PS1. Kamilla is the founder and Director of Music for Liberia, a nonprofit which supports education in Liberia, and also recently joined Madonna's Celebration Tour as a piano coach and teacher. Kamilla has been published in *Women and Music: A Journal of Gender and Culture*, and looks forward to publication in Cambridge University Press in 2025. She is currently a PhD student in musicology at New York University.