

Long Bio

Award-winning Liberian-Norwegian pianist **Kamilla Arku** gave her London debut 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 UK, Europe and Africa. 2020 saw her perform for the African Concert Series, the Hastings International Piano Festival, Amerikahaus and the Yale Alumni Association, and in the upcoming season, she looks forward to recitals at the International Florence Price Festival and Cambridge University. In 2021, she also joined a collective of Black female classical musicians and filmmakers for the cutting-edge *First Step* project. Under the direction of the English National Opera's Allyson Devenish and Gwyneth Ann Rand, this project will present a series of short films inspired by new works for voice and piano.

Kamilla has appeared on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio London; performed chamber music with Stephen Kovacevich, Alice Zawadzki and Leon Bosch; and creatively collaborated with visual artists Jordan Söderberg Mills and Amale Freiha Khat, as well as filmmaker Patrick Hamm. Kamilla is passionate about introducing audiences to lesser-known repertoire, and regularly programmes music by female composers and composers of colour. She has also given world and European premieres of works by Lainie Fefferman, Tara Creme and Virginia Seay.

Kamilla is a graduate of Yale University and the Royal Northern College of Music, and will begin a doctoral degree in Musicology at New York University in the autumn of 2021. Kamilla has also taken part in prestigious programmes such as the International Musicians Seminar at Prussia Cove, the Britten-Pears Young Artists Programme, and the London Masterclasses. She has been awarded scholarships and prizes by the Lions Club, Herndon Arts Council, Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association, the National Merit Program, the National Achievement Program, Yale University, the RNCM and the Britten-Pears Foundation.

In addition to performing, Kamilla is committed to volunteer efforts, and is the founder and Director of [Music for Liberia](#), a charity 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 Sirleaf Johnson commended her and Music for Liberia for their 'generosity and compassion to help us address a critical problem.' Most recently, Kamilla launched the education initiative [#EveryVoiceChallenge](#), a curated collection of piano music which promotes composers of colour to educators and students.

In all of her work, Kamilla draws on her diverse personal background as inspiration. Her artistry provides 'a space to breathe and take in the world around us. Note by note, Kamilla combines her heritage and classical training to create her own beautiful expression.' (*Culture is Free*)

Last updated: March 2021

Short

Award-winning Liberian-Norwegian pianist **Kamilla Arku** draws on her diverse background as inspiration for her work as a performer 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 UK, Europe and Africa. 2020 saw her perform for the African Concert Series, the Hastings International Piano Festival, Amerikahaus and the Yale Alumni Association, and in the upcoming season, she looks forward to recitals at the International Florence Price Festival and Cambridge University. In 2021 she also joined a collective of Black female classical musicians and filmmakers for the *First Step* project, led by the English National Opera's Allyson Devenish and Gwyneth Ann Rand.

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Crisp

Award-winning Liberian-Norwegian pianist **Kamilla Arku** draws on her diverse background as inspiration for her work as a performer and educator. Since giving her London debut recital at the renowned 'Pianists of the World' series at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, she has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in the UK, Europe and Africa. Kamilla is passionate about introducing audiences to diverse repertoire, and regularly programs music by female composers and composers of colour. In addition to performing, Kamilla is also committed to volunteer efforts, and is the Founder and Director of [Music for Liberia](#), a charity supporting young people in Liberia through music-based fundraising. Kamilla is a graduate of Yale University and the Royal Northern College of Music, and will begin a doctoral degree in Musicology at New York University in the autumn of 2021. In the upcoming season, she looks forward to recitals in the UK, US, Thailand and Liberia, as well as recording with Black female music and film collective, *First Step*.

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