

ARTISTIC PORTFOLIO

Naji Hakim & Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

Around the World – Piano Duets

Piano Four-Hands Concert

Original Works and Concert Arrangements by Naji Hakim



Contents

Twenty-nine destinations, two pianists, one orchestra: the piano.

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Project Overview

Naji Hakim and Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet **Around the World — Piano Duets**

A Musical Journey Across the World's Folk Traditions

After distinguished international careers as composer, organists, performers and musicologist, **Naji Hakim** and **Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet** now embark on a new artistic adventure: the piano four-hands repertoire.

The project began almost by chance with a concert arrangement of the celebrated Brazilian choro *Tico-Tico no Fubá*. Shared on social media, the performance quickly reached a remarkably wide audience and inspired the two artists to develop an entirely new concert programme.

Around the World – Piano Duets brings together twenty-nine original works, concert arrangements and fantasies by Naji Hakim, all inspired by folk melodies and popular musical traditions from around the world. Far more than simple transcriptions, these pieces are imaginative recreations in which the piano becomes an orchestra, revealing an extraordinary palette of colours, textures and expressive possibilities.

More than a recital, this programme is an invitation to travel through continents, cultures and memories. From Latin America to Spain, from France to the Levant, from Ireland to Russia, each work offers a new musical landscape, combining virtuosity, lyricism, humour, elegance and poetic imagination.

United both in life and in music, Naji Hakim and Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet invite audiences to discover a programme that celebrates the universal language of music through the unique richness of the piano four-hands repertoire.

How the Project Began

One day, my sister asked me a simple question:

"Why don't you and Marie-Bernadette play the famous *Tico-Tico no Fubá* as a piano four-hands duet?"

The idea took me by surprise. I let it mature for a few days before deciding to write an arrangement.

We recorded it without imagining the response it would receive and shared the video on Instagram. What had begun as a simple musical experiment soon took on an unexpected dimension. Within just a few weeks, the performance had been viewed, shared and enthusiastically commented on by hundreds of thousands of people.

Encouraged by this remarkable response, we decided to continue the adventure.

Gradually, *Tico-Tico no Fubá* was joined by other popular melodies from around the world. Each new arrangement was conceived not as a simple transcription, but as a genuine re-creation in which the piano four-hands becomes a true orchestra.

Thus **Around the World – Piano Duets** was born: a programme of twenty-nine pieces taking the audience from Latin America to Spain, from France to the Levant, from Ireland to Russia, with Christmas music and a collection of character pieces completing the journey.

Today, the project has grown beyond the concert stage into a forthcoming album and an international touring programme, with the aim of sharing this musical journey where folk traditions, contemporary creativity and the joy of piano four-hands performance come together.

A Musical Journey Around the World

Around the World – Piano Duets is a musical journey across the globe, bringing together twenty-nine works for piano four-hands, all composed or arranged by Naji Hakim.

Inspired by folk melodies and popular musical traditions from many different countries, the programme creates a dialogue between cultures, styles and instrumental colours within a unified musical narrative. Each arrangement is conceived as a genuine orchestration for the piano, exploiting the full expressive and sonic potential of the instrument to evoke the richness, contrasts and vitality of an orchestra.

The carefully balanced succession of moods, tonalities and atmospheres leads the audience naturally from one destination to the next: dazzling dances, lyrical pages, traditional songs, Christmas carols, musical souvenirs of France, melodies from the Levant, Iberian landscapes, and a brilliant finale based on a Russian folk song.

More than a succession of independent pieces, **Around the World – Piano Duets** offers a coherent musical journey in which virtuosity, imagination and expressive depth come together to celebrate the universal language of music.

First part

Tea for Two

Humoresque

Fantasia on Can-Can

Yā Lōru Hūbbuki

Nocturne

La Cucaracha

Ciribiribin – Toccata

Lilliburlero

Canarios

Prends mon cœur

Gigue

Bint el Shalabiya

Noël Nouvelet

La Marche des Rois

Adiós Muchachos

Duration : approx. 30 min

Intermission

Second part

Adeste fideles

Tafta Hindi

Córdoba

Zaragoza

Badinerie

Cerisier rose

Cielito Lindo

Madrid

Sous les ponts de Paris

Valencia

Fantasia on “La Machicha”

Sérénade

Variations russes

Tico-Tico no Fubá

Duration : approx. 31 min

Total Duration : approx. 61 min (excluding intermission).

Biographies

Naji Hakim

Composer, organist and pianist, **Naji Hakim** was born in Beirut in 1955. A pupil of Jean Langlais and a graduate of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, where he was awarded seven First Prizes, he is also a laureate of several international competitions for organ performance and composition.

From 1985 to 1993 he served as Organist of the Basilica of the Sacré-Cœur in Paris, before succeeding Olivier Messiaen as Organist of La Trinité, a position he held from 1993 to 2008. Alongside his international career as a concert organist and improviser, he has established himself as one of today's most prolific composers. His catalogue comprises more than 300 works, performed and recorded throughout the world and published by United Music Publishing, Schott, Gérard Billaudot, Combre, Leduc, Alphonse Leduc, Lemoine and other international publishers. He is also Visiting Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, London.

Regularly invited to leading international festivals, he has performed throughout Europe, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East and Oceania. His extensive discography, both as performer and composer, has been released by numerous international labels, including Signum Classics, EMI, Priory Records, Wergo, Motette and IFO Classics.

In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI awarded him the Augusta Crucis Insigne Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. Honorary Doctor of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (Lebanon), he was awarded the Trois Couronnes Literary Prize (Essay category) in 2026 for his autobiography *An Enduring Grace*.

www.najihakim.com

After more than forty years of distinguished international careers pursued in parallel, united both in life and in music, Naji Hakim and Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet now come together in a shared artistic venture: *Around the World – Piano Duets*. Inspired by folk melodies from across the globe, this musical journey brings together their combined expertise in composition, performance, musicology and teaching, united in a single artistic vision.

Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

Organist, musicologist, composer and pianist, **Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet** is Emeritus Professor at Bordeaux Montaigne University, holds a doctorate in Musicology from the Sorbonne, and was awarded several First Prizes at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. A laureate of four international competitions in organ performance and improvisation, she has appeared in numerous festivals throughout Europe, the United States and the Middle East. Her recordings have been broadcast by, among others, BBC Radio 3 and Minnesota Public Radio.

A specialist in French and Spanish court music of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, she combines performance, research and composition. The author of numerous books and scholarly articles, she has also received commissions from the Chœur Ascèse (Anglet), the Quincena Musical de San Sebastián, Yannick Merlin and the Hofkirche in Lucerne. Her works are published by Combre, Delatour, Lemoine, FitzSimons, Müller & Schade and United Music Publishing.

She is Vice-President of the Société des Sciences, Lettres et Arts de Bayonne, a Corresponding Member of the Académie Nationale des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts de Bordeaux, and a member of the Real Sociedad Bascongada de Amigos del País. She is an Officer of the Ordre des Palmes académiques and a Knight of the Ordre national du Mérite.

www.mariebernadettedufourcet.com

Introductory Concert Speech

Welcome address by the artists

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This programme was born almost by chance.

One day, my sister asked me a simple question:

"Why don't you and your wife, Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet, play the famous Tico-Tico no Fubá as a piano four-hands duet?"

The idea took me by surprise. I let it mature for a few days before deciding to write an arrangement.

We recorded it, shared it on Instagram, and the response exceeded all our expectations. Within just a few weeks, hundreds of thousands of people had watched, shared and commented on the performance.

Encouraged by this enthusiastic reception, we continued the adventure. One by one, other folk melodies from around the world joined the first, gradually forming the programme you will hear this evening.

This journey has also deeply influenced my work as a composer. Throughout my life, the piano has been my orchestral companion—the instrument on which my compositions first take shape before being clothed in the colours of the orchestra.

With these arrangements, I wanted to reverse that process: not to think of the piano as a means of imagining the orchestra, but as its ultimate destination. My ambition was for the piano to become an orchestra in its own right.

Above all, it has been a great joy to share this adventure with Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet, an exceptional musician, organist and musicologist. Without her musical insight, sensitivity and wholehearted commitment, this project would never have become what it is today.

We hope these twenty-nine pieces will give you as much pleasure in listening as they have given us in imagining, writing and performing them.

We wish you a wonderful evening, and thank you for being with us.

Detailed Programme

N°	Work	Key	Character	Duration
1	<i>Tea for Two</i>	G major	<i>Brilliant</i>	0'58
2	<i>Humoresque</i>	C# minor / D b major	<i>Witty</i>	2'33
3	<i>Fantasia on Can-Can</i>	F major	<i>Sparkling</i>	1'09
4	<i>Yā Lōru Hūbbuki</i>	G minor	<i>Exuberant</i>	1'26
5	<i>Nocturne</i>	A major / La b major	<i>Poetic</i>	2'32
6	<i>La Cucaracha</i>	F# major / G major	<i>Dance-like</i>	1'12
7	<i>Ciribiribin – Toccata</i>	F major / D major	<i>Virtuosic</i>	1'29
8	<i>Lilliburlero</i>	G major	<i>Noble</i>	0'53
9	<i>Canarios</i>	D major	<i>Rhythmic</i>	2'29
10	<i>Take My Heart (Prends mon cœur)</i>	F# major	<i>Tender</i>	1'52
11	<i>Gigue</i>	D major	<i>Playful</i>	2'27
12	<i>Bint el Shalabiya</i>	G minor	<i>Energetic</i>	1'31
13	<i>Noël Nouvelet</i>	A minor	<i>Contemplative</i>	1'37
14	<i>March of the Three Kings (La Marche des Rois)</i>	E minor	<i>Festive</i>	0'55
15	<i>Adiós Muchachos</i>	G major	<i>Nostalgic</i>	1'41
INTERMISSION				
16	<i>Adeste fideles</i>	G major	<i>Joyful</i>	1'00
17	<i>Tafta Hindi</i>	C minor	<i>Graceful</i>	1'10
18	<i>Córdoba</i>	G minor	<i>Evocative</i>	2'38
19	<i>Zaragoza</i>	G major	<i>Dazzling</i>	3'30
20	<i>Badinerie</i>	F major	<i>Sparkling</i>	2'40
21	<i>Cherry Blossom (Cerisier rose)</i>	G major	<i>Warm</i>	1'27
22	<i>Cielito Lindo</i>	C major	<i>Radiant</i>	1'12
23	<i>Madrid</i>	E b major	<i>Brilliant</i>	1'44
24	<i>Sous les ponts de Paris</i>	A b major	<i>Charming</i>	1'45
25	<i>Valencia</i>	E b major	<i>Exuberant</i>	1'31
26	<i>Fantasia on « La Machicha »</i>	D major	<i>Whimsical</i>	1'09
27	<i>Serenade (Sérénade)</i>	E b major	<i>Intimate</i>	2'31
28	<i>Variations on a Russian Folk Song</i>	G major / E b major	<i>Majestic</i>	3'36
29	<i>Tico-Tico no Fubá</i>	C major / A minor	<i>Breathtaking</i>	2'18

The Album: *Around the World – Piano Duets*

The debut album by Naji Hakim & Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

Around the World – Piano Duets is the natural culmination of an artistic journey born from the simple pleasure of making music together. Written for piano four-hands, the album brings together original compositions, concert arrangements and fantasies by **Naji Hakim**, performed by **Naji Hakim** and **Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet**.

Conceived as a musical journey across continents and cultures, it takes the listener from Europe to Latin America, from the Levant to Ireland, and onwards to Spain and Russia. Folk songs, dances, Christmas carols and character pieces unfold in a rich tapestry of colours, moods and musical traditions.

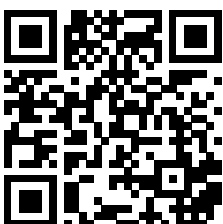
Far more than a collection of arrangements, the album offers a genuine musical re-creation. Familiar melodies are transformed through an imaginative and highly individual style of writing that explores the full expressive and sonorous potential of the piano four-hands repertoire. Each work reflects the same artistic ideal: to make the piano sound like a complete orchestra.

Performed by two artists united by more than forty years of shared musical life, *Around the World – Piano Duets* celebrates dialogue, artistic partnership and the joy of making music together. It invites listeners on a journey where folk tradition meets creative imagination in a spirit of elegance, freedom and shared enjoyment.

*The first album entirely devoted to our piano four-hands programme,
it will soon be released on all major digital platforms.*



While waiting for the album's release, we invite you to discover a selection of excerpts from our programme:



YOUTUBE
Tea for Two



INSTAGRAM
Naji Hakim



INSTAGRAM
Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

Discography

1. Naji Hakim Discography

For nearly forty years, **Naji Hakim's** works have been released by leading international record labels and performed by organists, pianists, chamber ensembles, orchestras and choirs throughout the world.

Equally renowned as a composer and performer, he has also made numerous landmark recordings of his own music as well as of the great masterpieces of the French organ repertoire.

Recent Releases



BASQUES ARABESQUES

Symphonic Works
Czech Symphony
Orchestra Prague
 Johannes Skudlik
 Gwendeline Lumaret



On all major platforms



OUVERTURE LIBANAISE

Symphonic Works
WDR Funkhausorchester Köln
 Wayne Marshall
 Matthew Trusler



On all major platforms



AVE MARIA & MESSE SOLENNELLE

Works for Choir and Orchestra
Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks
Münchner Rundfunkorchester
 Wayne Marshall



On all major platforms

Reference Recordings

Signum Classics : *Hakim Plays Hakim – Bilbao Vol. I* (SIGCD389), *Hakim Plays Hakim – Bilbao Vol. II* (SIGCD463), *Hakim Plays Hakim – Danish Radio* (SIGCD222), *Set Me As a Seal Upon Your Heart* (SIGCD245), *Glenalmond Organ* (SIGCD130), *Sakskøbing Præludier* (SIGCD296).

Priory Records : *Rhapsody* (PRCD465), *Rubaiyat* (PRCD369), *Great European Organs No. 22* (PRCD327), *The Organ & Choral Works of Naji Hakim* (PRCD545).

IFO : *Naji Hakim* (IFO 00 321), *Seattle Concerto – Violin Concerto* (IFO 00 322), *Organ Concertos Nos. 1 & 3* (IFO 00 323).

Naji Hakim's Works Recorded by Other Artists

Among the many distinguished performers who have recorded his music:

Iveta Apkalna, Nicolas Chevereau, Hyowon Chi, Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet, Marion Delorme, Claire Foison, Andrzej Gebski, Fadia Tom El-Hage, Amy Johansen, Petri Komulainen, Christophe Kuhlmann, Jakub Kwintal, Jean-Philippe Kuzma, Jan Lehtola, Gwendeline Lumaret, Fredrik Malmberg, Wayne Marshall, Agnieszka Marucha, Magali Mosnier, Anne Page, Maxime Patel, Roman Perucki, Simon Preston, Gerard Schwarz, Jana Semaan, Nicolas Simon, Johannes Skudlik, Arthur Stockel, Rima Tawil, Alexander Titov, Peter Van de Velde, Olivier Vernet, Anne Warthmann, Maciej Zakrzewski, The Danish Chamber Players.

Major labels

Signum Classics • Priory • EMI Classics • Wergo • Motette • Aeolus • IFO Classics • Rejoyce • Herald • Gothic • Alba • Métier • Querstand • Guild • Orchid Classics • Ars Musici • Jade • Virgin Classics.

Explore the Complete Discography

For nearly forty years, **Naji Hakim's** music has inspired an extensive international discography, bringing together his own recordings and those of many distinguished performers, released by leading international record labels.

Complete discography
www.najihakim.com



2. Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet Discography

Alongside her distinguished career as a performer and musicologist, **Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet** has developed an extensive discography. Her recordings, devoted in particular to the music of Charles Tournemire, Louis Archimbaud, Jean Langlais and Naji Hakim, have been released by several leading European labels, including Motette, Priory Records, ORGAN (Schott), Rejoyce/IFO and Signum Classics.

Selected Recordings :

- *Langlais / Hakim: Orgelwerke* (Motette, 1987) Motette 11171
- *Charles Tournemire – L'Orgue mystique* (Priory Records) PRCD 328
- *Duo Concertant de Naji Hakim* (Priory Records) PRCD 347
- *Great European Organs n° 36* (Priory Records) PRCD 422
- *Le Livre d'orgue de Carpentras* de Louis Archimbaud (ORGAN / Schott) ORG 7011 2
- *Livre du Saint-Sacrement* d'Olivier Messiaen (Rejoyce / IFO) JOYCLASSIC 10
- *Hakim Plays Hakim – Bilbao Vol. I* (Signum Classics) SIGCD389

Combined Discographies

For nearly forty years, the recordings of **Naji Hakim** and **Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet** have been released by leading European and international record labels.

Major Record Labels Featuring Recordings by Naji Hakim and/or Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet



Testimonials & Press Reviews

Naji Hakim

A Tribute from Yvonne Messiaen

Apart from his liturgical duties at La Trinité in Paris, where for more than sixty years he presided over the great Cavaillé-Coll organ and enriched the services with his celebrated improvisations on Gregorian themes, Olivier Messiaen loved attending Mass at the Basilica of the Sacré-Cœur in Montmartre to hear the inspiring homilies as well as the remarkable performances and improvisations of Naji Hakim.

Naji Hakim's registrations were extraordinarily varied, his imagination constantly renewed, moving effortlessly from a deeply expressive melody to a dazzling toccata, revealing both astonishing technique and a remarkable inner musical vision.

His interpretations of the great classical repertoire were distinguished by stylistic purity and radiant virtuosity.

And when the virtuoso descended from the organ loft, one found oneself in the presence of a man so young, so humble, so warm-hearted, whose smile reflected the same generosity as his music. One could only give thanks to God.

Only those who know how to remain simple are truly great. Only those who are truly great can be genuinely humble.

My husband must surely have interceded from Heaven so that Naji Hakim might succeed him at his beloved Cavaillé-Coll organ of La Trinité — he who already called him "the new Marcel Dupré".

Yvonne Messiaen

1 July 1993

Press Reviews

★★★★★ BBC Music Magazine

Wergo/Schott ORG 7102-2

« ...one of the foremost composer-organists of his generation. »

The American Organist

« one of the most outstanding of the younger generation of French organist-composers. »

International Record Review

Signum SIGCD222

"I regard this as an important recording and I recommend it unreservedly. »

L'Orient-Le Jour (2025)

"A leading figure in contemporary sacred music."

"I have never heard anyone improvise as you do. I love everything you write."

Olivier Messiaen

9 Février 1992

Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

★★★★★ BBC Music Magazine

« *The performance is certainly of high calibre... there are ravishingly beautiful moments.* » (à propos de *L'Orgue mystique*, Priory PRCD 669).

The Organ

« *This is a reading of powerful perception by an exceptionally talented organist... I cannot commend it highly enough.* »

The American Organist

« *The organist has a secure and firm technique put to stunning use... Bravo!* » (à propos de *Great European Organs*).

Gramophone (Priory)

« *I strongly commend these sizzling performances expertly caught by Priory's Neil Collier.* »

Online Presence

Official Websites

Naji Hakim

najihakim.com

Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

mariebernadettedufourcet.com

Social Media

YouTube <i>Naji Hakim</i>	Instagram <i>Naji Hakim</i>	Instagram <i>Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet</i>	Spotify <i>Naji Hakim</i>
			

Scan the QR codes to discover our recordings and stay up to date with our latest news.

Technical Requirements & Engagement Terms

Performers

Piano Four-Hands Duo

Naji Hakim & Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

Programme

Conceived as a coherent musical journey, the programme may be presented in different formats while preserving its artistic structure and overall balance:

- single recital: 60–70 minutes;
- two-part recital with intermission: approximately 90 minutes.

Piano

The presenter is kindly requested to provide:

- a concert grand piano (Steinway Model D, Yamaha CFX, Fazioli F278, Bösendorfer Imperial, or an instrument of comparable quality);
- tuning on the day of the performance;
- a stable, adjustable piano bench wide enough for two performers.

Rehearsal

The piano should be available before the performance.

Preferred rehearsal time: 2–3 hours.

Venue

The presenter is kindly requested to provide:

- appropriate concert lighting;
- one spacious dressing room (or two separate dressing rooms);
- still mineral water for the artists.

Programme Flexibility

The programme may be adapted to suit the presenter's wishes, the duration of the concert or the nature of the event. The artists nevertheless seek to preserve its musical, tonal and dramatic coherence.

Fees

Performance fees are agreed directly with the presenter and take into account, among other factors:

- the nature of the engagement;
- the country and venue;
- the number of performances;
- any additional activities (masterclasses, lectures, audience discussions, etc.).

Travel & Accommodation

The presenter is responsible for the travel arrangements of both artists, including local transfers.

Accommodation should be provided in a comfortable double room in a hotel conveniently located near the concert venue. The length of the stay should reflect the artistic schedule (normally two or three nights). Meals should either be provided by the presenter or covered through a daily allowance.

Recording

The artists greatly appreciate receiving an audio or video recording of the performance whenever one is made.

Any public broadcast, distribution or commercial use of such recordings is subject to their prior written consent.

Contacts

Naji Hakim

mail@najihakim.com

Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet

mb.dufourcet@gmail.com

These guidelines are intended to facilitate the organisation of the engagement and may be adapted by mutual agreement to suit the specific requirements of each project and venue.