Kinan Azmeh Cityband Bio

Hailed as a “Virtuoso” and "Intensely Soulful" by the New York Times and “Spellbinding" and

“Brilliant” by the New Yorker, and "Incredibly Rich Sound" by the CBC. His utterly distinctive

sound across different musical genres has gained him international recognition as clarinetist

and composer.

Kinan has been touring the world as soloist, composer and improviser. Notable appearances

include: Carnegie Hall and the UN's general assembly, New York; the Royal Albert hall,

London; Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires; der Philharmonie; Berlin; the Library of Congress, the

Kennedy Center, Washington DC; the Mozarteum, Salzburg, Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie,

Opera Bastille, Paris; Tchaikovsky Grand Hall, Moscow and the Damascus opera house for its

opening concert in his native Syria.

He has appeared as soloist with the New York Philharmonic, the Seattle Symphony, the

Bavarian Radio Orchestra, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and the Syrian Symphony

Orchestra among others.; and has shared the stage with Yo-Yo Ma, Marcel Khalife, Aynur,

Daniel Barenboim, John McLaughlin and Jivan Gasparian.

He has composed for solo, orchestra, chamber music; film, live illustration, and electronics.

Resent commissions include works for the New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony , Saint

Paul Chamber Orhcetsra as well as recording original music for Bob Wilson’s recent production

of Oedipus Rex. He leads his Arabic/Jazz quartet the Kinan Azmeh CityBand and his Hewar

Ensemble and serves as artistic director of the Damascus Festival Chamber Players, a pan-

Arab ensemble dedicated to contemporary music form the Arab world. He is also a member of

Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble with whom he was awarded a Grammy in 2017.

Kinan is a graduate of New York's Juilliard school as a student of Charles Neidich, and of both

the Damascus High institute of Music where he studied with Shukry Sahwki, Nicolay Viovanof

and Anatoly Moratof, and Damascus University’s School of Electrical Engineering. Kinan

earned his doctorate degree in music from the City University of New York in 2013.