

OHAD BEN-ARI, *pianist and composer*

Israeli born pianist Ohad Ben-Ari performed at age 12 with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra. The following year he was already enrolled as a student at the Tel-Aviv University, where he studied piano with the legendary Pnina Salzman and composition with Joseph Dorfman. Ohad has won numerous top prizes at international competitions, among them the ARD Competition (Munich) and the coveted Arthur Rubinstein Master Competition (Tel-Aviv). As a result, he received many invitations to appear as soloist with orchestras around the world.

In 1996 Ohad headed for the USA and set to work as a music producer specializing in pop and in urban music. In the following years he would work with top American pop artists, appear in major TV shows and record a vast array of styles and repertoire, ranging from Classical to Jazz and Pop. Big success followed his joint venture with his sister, violinist Miri Ben-Ari, who won a Grammy Award while working with Ohad on her solo album for Universal Records.

Since 2010 Ohad Ben-Ari resides with his family in Berlin, where he continues his extensive work as a pianist and composer. His partnership of many years with Berlin based violinist Guy Braunstein has been reinstated and the two often record and perform together. Ohad and Guy also serve as artistic directors of the “Bahnhof Rolandseck” chamber music festival. Starting 2014 Ben-Ari is also founder and director of "ID Festival" Berlin. Supported by the German Government, the purpose of this festival is to present the work of Israeli artists who reside in Germany. Another event that marked a special milestone in Ohad Ben-Ari’s career took place that year: a performance of Hans Werner Henze’s epic “Nine Sacred Concertos” with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Sir Simon Rattle.

A debut of his original composition for piano and orchestra, “Tips”, took place early in 2013 with the Hamburger Symphoniker. In 2014 his concerto for Marimba was premiered in Tokyo and his latest symphonic work “Violins of Hope” was commissioned and performed by the Berliner Philharmoniker in 2015.