

Margaret Fingerhut presents charity single 'Memories from My Land'



In a series of 32 piano recitals across the UK, pianist Margaret Fingerhut has raised around £80,000 for refugees and asylum seekers and is now aiming to raise more with her charity single 'Memories from My Land.'

Having toured the UK with her special migration-themed programme 'Far from the Home I Love', with proceeds from the concerts going to the City of Sanctuary organisation, Fingerhut is now aiming to reach an even higher total of £88,000.

Available for download on Bandcamp, 'Memories from My Land' was written for the pianist by Kurdish refugee composer Moutaz Arian. Money raised from the

downloads will go to City of Sanctuary, which has a network of over 120 local groups around the country building a culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers.

'It struck me that the landscape of classical music would be very different if composers had not been allowed to migrate,' says Fingerhut. 'As the granddaughter of immigrants, I felt I had to do something to counter the rising tide of hatred and intolerance towards others.'

'It has been a truly uplifting experience to do this tour. Everywhere I went I met so many wonderful, altruistic people offering help to the refugees and asylum seekers who have come to the UK. I also met a number of the refugees themselves and heard their heartbreaking stories first-hand. Many of them would be alone and destitute without the compassionate support of City of Sanctuary groups.'

Download the charity track single at bit.ly/35MM4iW. You can also donate to City of Sanctuary at bit.ly/2QMuhbs. www.margaretfingerhut.co.uk/far-from-the-home-i-love

Political tensions have not made life any easier for refugees and asylum seekers, but while most of us sit around wringing our hands, pianist Margaret Fingerhut set out to do something positive, touring a concert programme, 'Far from the Home I Love', looking at how displacement and migration affected the lives of great composers and raising funds for the charity City of Sanctuary. You can read all about it in *International Piano* (<https://bit.ly/2TksYhw>) but suffice to say here that she has finished the tour – no fewer than 32 concerts – having raised a magnificent £80,000.

The ambitious target was £88,000 (£1,000 for each key on the piano) and we can all help her cover those last few notes by downloading a recording she has made of *Memories from my Land*, a piece written for her by Kurdish refugee composer Moutaz Arian. 'Given what's been happening to the Kurdish people, Arian's simple but evocative piece is all the more poignant and haunting,' says Fingerhut. It's on offer at less than the price of a cup of coffee, so please head to margaretfingerhut.bandcamp.com and be generous. It's also on iTunes, Amazon Music and Spotify.