

KIRA FONTANA BAND



The Kira Fontana Band represents the cutting edge in genre-defying indie and post-classical music. On stage, they merge singer and composer Kira Fontana's intricately crafted songs and sweeping arrangements with a virtuosity that will captivate even the most sophisticated ears.

From a wide spectrum of influences ranging from Steve Reich and Arvo Pärt to Balinese Gamelan, Björk and Sigur Rós, Kira Fontana's music effortlessly molds a powerful, haunting new sound at once immediate and timeless. With extraordinary success at blending the depth of classical music, the shimmering textures of minimalism and the emotional drive of indie rock, Kira is cultivating a loyal listener base in the U.S., Australia and Europe. As one fan put it, "A beautiful and breathtaking fusion of styles... the pure emotion that takes you over while listening is an unforgettable experience."

Kira Fontana released *The Inner Revolution*, her debut collection of 7 songs mixed by Howard Bilterman (Arcade Fire), in late 2007.



BIOGRAPHIES

KIRA FONTANA

Kira Fontana a singer, pianist and composer who earned degrees in composition from the Eastman School of Music and Yale University, studying with three Pulitzer prize winning composers before returning to her childhood love of songwriting. Kira's music embraces an emotional rawness without fear, while exploring a soul-searching mysticism that's undaunted in recognizing life's ever-changing moves. Kira has composed for chamber ensembles, symphony orchestras, rock bands, Balinese gamelan, and most recently her own ensemble, The Kira Fontana Band. Her debut album, *The Inner Revolution*, has been played in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Spain, the UK and across the US.

MONI SIMEONOV (violin)

A native of Bulgaria, Moni began playing the violin at age five. He studied music at the Eastman School of Music and Yale University, and is now the concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra at USC's Thornton School of Music, where he studies under Midori. Recently appointed concertmaster for the newly-formed Orchestra N in Seoul, Korea, Moni has also been concertmaster for the Tanglewood Music Festival under Conductor James Levine. He is also a virtuoso whistler.

COSIMA LUTHER (violin)

Cosima began playing violin at the age of 5, studying Scottish, Irish, Cape Breton, Shetland, Appalachian, Swing, Country and Bluegrass music in conjunction with her classical training. She received degrees in violin performance from USC and Pepperdine University, and has performed in Canada, France, Germany, Austria, China, and Korea in addition to the United States. Active as a freelance musician, teacher and conductor, Cosima recently toured with Dakah Hip Hop Orchestra, and has performed with many notable artists including John Williams and Stevie Wonder.

JENNIFER THOMAS (viola)

Jennifer is a San Diego native who began violin studies at age 5, before transitioning to viola. She is a graduate of Boston University and CalArts, where she received her MFA in viola performance. In addition to recording and touring with various rock/pop and classical performers throughout the United States and Europe, Jennifer has studied and played a wide range of music, from traditional Irish and American folk to Jazz, Rock and North Indian music, including a recent performance with Gingger Shankar.

ALISHA BAUER (cello)

Alisha earned her Masters degree in cello from UCLA. She has worked with numerous notable artists in both live performance and studio sessions in Los Angeles, as well as performing on and off screen for TV and Film. Some of her recent music performances include concerts with Sara Bareilles, Jon Brion, Jeff Beck and Andrea Bocelli. An avid chamber musician, Alisha co-founded the Alcantara Piano Quartet, which went on to participate in the Fischhoff and Coleman National Chamber Music competitions.

SIDNEY HOPSON (vibes, glockenspiel)

Sidney earned degrees in percussion performance from the University of Southern California and Long Beach City College. A Long Beach native, he performs frequently with various chamber and large ensembles throughout Southern California, and is also an experienced pianist and oboist. Sidney is an active member of the Quincy Jones Music Consortium for music education, and is currently writing a book entitled "The New Diplomacy", a commentary on arts policy, cultural diplomacy, and methods of uniting the two.

KIRA FONTANA PRESS QUOTES & REVIEWS

“Tremendous depth of talent... I found myself holding my breath to listen.”

- Peter Clitheroe, Suffolk 'n' Cool Radio

“Haunting and evocative. I couldn't help being swept away...”

- Feminist Review

“A hauntingly stunning voice... I was awed by this young woman's abilities.”

- Social Circle Online

“Fontana's debut, 'The Inner Revolution' places her firmly in the same ballpark as composers such as Tori Amos, Sinéad O'Connor and Kate Bush.”

- Wildy's World

HI-RES PHOTOS

Available online at: www.KiraFontana.com/press

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