

arash nafisi

PIANIST

Dear friends, dear family,

Music has been a part of my life since the age of 5, when I started playing the piano with the *Méthode Rose* in Strasbourg. This is where my parents, exiled from Iran, landed after the outbreak of the war with Iraq in the 1980s. My passion was further fueled by listening to Beethoven's symphonies, which my father would have me listen to while following along with the orchestral scores. Shortly after, I quickly joined the Orléans Conservatory.

The hardest part - and what motivated me to take the leap and seriously return to the conservatory at age 41, after a career in the telecoms and data center industry - was my failure in 1997 during my final diploma exam (DFE), now known as the certificate of completion (CFE).

It was first in Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, in the Drôme region, that I was able to turn things around by obtaining my CFE, and most notably in Aix-en-Provence, where I was unanimously awarded my Diploma of Musical Studies (DEM) with highest honors (mention très bien) in May 2025.

Today, I am continuing my advanced studies in Aix-en-Provence in Patrick Zygmanski's class, where I am preparing for admission to a "sup" (a higher conservatory). My sights are set on the Haute École de Musique (HEM) in Geneva - one of the most demanding conservatories, which has no age limit - all while attending Maurizio Baglini's Academy in Pisa.

This path demands a great deal: time - which means limiting my involvement in the corporate world (I currently work 2 days a week for *Lyntia*, a leading dark fiber company based in Madrid) - intensive daily practice (6 to 8 hours), but also financial means. This includes masterclasses (notably with Yulianna Avdeeva), travel, a new instrument, sheet music, and international competitions (in April 2026, I won 1st prize in the "Amateur" category at the WPTA Italy international piano competition).

If you would like to support this adventure, the association *Piano'n Troppo* - whose mission is to support the training of artists - is accepting contributions for its "training grants" fund. A tax receipt will be sent to you in return (your donation is 66% tax-deductible from income tax and 75% from real estate wealth tax). For companies, supporting the association qualifies for a 60% tax reduction. This commitment can be formalized through an official corporate sponsorship agreement, with direct payment via bank transfer. I invite you to contact me to be put in touch with the board. Any contribution, regardless of the amount, will be deeply appreciated.

A gala dinner and concert bringing together the association's circle of friends will be organized, where many artists will share the stage (more details to come).

To discover my journey in more detail and see my upcoming dates, I invite you to visit arashnafisi.com.

With all my gratitude,



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