



## International Press Service.....

Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

### Aeham Ahmad in Rome

Rome, 10.01.2017 [ENA]

The images of Aeham Ahmad at the piano, in the debris of the bombing on the outskirts of the Syrian capital, have moved the entire world. Ahmad was playing there every day a piano installed on a cart, and was encircled by children who accompanied him with songs. A form of resistance to the war, the relief of music against the deadly roar of military conflict. A music that allows him a great freedom of improvisation.

The day when the militiamen of Isis burned the piano - because western music is considered a mortal sin - and killed one of the children who were with him, Ahmad decided to leave his country and escape to Europe through the Balkan route, along with thousands of other migrants. Until the arrival in Germany, where he obtained the status of refugee, he began playing in theaters, met the Chancellor Angela Merkel, distributed his first album and won the prestigious Beethoven prize. He is currently working on his second album and his autobiography for 2017. Rome applauded his music of peace and hope for Syria and the world. So as only Rome can do.

On 7th January Aeham Ahmad was in Concert in Rome Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia where Sir Antonio Pappano has been Music Director since 1 October 2005. The Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia is one of the oldest musical institutions in the world. Officially founded in 1585, it has evolved over the centuries from an organization of mainly resident musicians to a modern academy and symphonic concert organization of international reputation.

Aeham Ahmad has a unique history to tell through his music and probably at the same time, comparable to that of so many human beings fleeing the war. He was forced to leave his roots in search not of a better future, but of a future that's all. Ahmad found that future. And he found it in Europe, the cradle of classical music that he discovered as a child in Damascus and that, after all, saved his life. Aeham Ahmad was born in Damascus in the year 1988 and belongs to the Palestinian minority in Syria. He lived with his family until 2015 in the refugee camp of Yarmouk, which has become a suburb of Damascus and to where in 1948 his grandfather fled from Palestine.

His musical talent was supported from early years, in fact at the age of five his father taught him to play the piano. At the age of 23 he graduated from the conservatorium in Damascus and Homs. Due to the injury by a piece of shrapnel in his right hand a career as a classical concert pianist will likely remain closed for him.

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Risking his life the pianist played his piano in the streets of Yarmouk to transmit a little hope and joy through playing music to the people. His songs in arabic are like crying in the wind. Apparently there's no hope, only crying in these beautiful songs and music. But music is hope in itself, it is hope for a better future without war and with peace for everybody.

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Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:

V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDStV: Dr. Carlo Marino

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