***Biography***

Born in Tashkent Nafis Umerkulova started piano at the age of 5 and commenced her musical studies in Uspensky Specialist Music School when she was 6. Only two years later Nafis made her debut as a soloist after becoming a 2nd prize -winner at the **Republican Piano Competition** in Tashkent. This followed by a Diploma and a special prize award at the **Internatitional B. Dvarionas Piano Competition** in Vilnius and the 1st prize at the **Internatitional N. Rubinstein Piano Competition** in Paris.

In 2004 Nafis was awarded a full scholarship to continue her musical education in UK at the Purcell School of Music with William Fong. Soon after becoming a prize -winner of the Purcell School’s annual **Concerto Competition** she performed the Grieg Piano Concerto with orchestra at the Purcell School. Nafis continued her musical career in London, where she was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music with William Fong and Tatiana Sarkissova. In 2008 she won the **Edith Steinitz award**.

Nafis participated in Masterclasses with *Dmitriy Bashkirov*, *Mikhail Olenev*, *Lev Natochenny*, *Pascal Devoyon*, *Pascal Roge,* *Steven Osborne, Stephen Kovacevich, Andrei Gavrilov* and many others. Her numerous performances in UK include solo and chamber music recitals in Wigmore Hall, Drapers Hall, Purcell Room, St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Winchester Cathedral, Glasgow City Halls.

In 2012 Nafis graduated from the Masters degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where she was receiving a full scholarship to study with Aaron Shorr. During her studies there she won the prestigious **RCS concerto competition, Bamber –Galloway and Webster Prize piano competitions** and has performed Prokofiev’s 1st Piano Concerto in Glasgow City Halls under baton of Christian Kluxen. She has also recorded Schubert’s Sonata D958 for a Schubert Documentary by BBC TWO.

Recent successes include the 3rd prize at the International **BRANT Piano Competition** in Birmingham as well as concert tour in Slovenia playing in a duo with a cellist Katarina Majcen following the invitation from *“Glasbene mladine Slovenije”.* This tour featured an evening recital at the Philarharmonia Hall in Ljubljana that was broadcasted on Slovenian radio and television. Last year she moved back to London after becoming a recipient of the Trinity Laban and Arthur Haynes Scholarships, as well as the Myra Hess award generated by Help Musicians UK to pursue the Individualised Study Program at Trinity Laban Conservatoire and study with Deniz Gelenbe.

Nafis is deeply grateful to Fagus Anstruther Memorial Fund and Help Musicians UK for their wonderful support and interested in her career.