

Beat: Arts

## Rana Jasim my weapon is the music

### An ambitious Iraqi pianist

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**USPA NEWS** - Translated by Jasim Alhayawi

In a special interview by the Al-Hadath News Agency with the Iraqi Pianist, Miss. Rana Jasim, she reviewed to us her artistic career and her future projects and the significant messages she wants to pass to Iraqi women and highlight their concerns, she said, "I started my musical career as a talented piano player at the age of 4 years old when my father bought me a small piano instrument and started practicing on it without a teacher or tutorial guidebook.

Rana Jasim received her academic diploma after 5 years of study in the Institute of Fine Arts in 1999, and continued her study at the Academy of Fine Arts where she obtained a bachelor degree in music as one of the senior ten graduates and appointed a teaching professor of music in the said academy to then become a member of the Iraqi National Board for Music. "As a private initiative and to expand my music knowledge I have also studied the classical music of Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin ", she added.

Rana Jasim has made endeavors to renovate the traditional and heritage songs in a classical way, with the emphasis on masterpieces connected with the basic concerns of Iraqi women of repression, marginalization and deprivation from freedom that consequently restrict and deprive women from releasing their creative energies in all fields. She stressed that she is not only a musician but a fighter in this society with the weapon of music to communicate my message of humanity regardless of all criticisms and obstacles encountered under slogans of (haram, wrong and shyness) she continued as saying"

I believe that the secret behind my continuity is the margin of freedom that I enjoy and the lofty goal I believe in. Despite the teaching hours in the Faculty of Fine Arts, I have some time to perform human mission in training children with Down's syndrome and children who suffer from autism and handicapped to learn and play piano in cooperation with the Iraqi Association for Psychotherapy. She expressed her overwhelming happiness while training this category and preparing them to become a man of the future. Pianist Rana Jasem is one of the most prominent pianists in Iraq.

She has participated in many festivals inside and outside the country and has won many awards, including the Cairo Cultural Festival in Egypt and many countries of Europe apart from a special training certificate from the academy of music of the United States of America. Her ambition is to establish a specialized institute for teaching piano in Iraq, and the least she hopes to receive is the support and sponsorship by the state because a project like this would hardly come to being by private capabilities..., she concluded.

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