

WallisAnnenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

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PRESENTS

BENJAMIN GROSVENOR, PIANO

Program

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810-1856)

Arabesque, Op. 18

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 333 *Linz*

Allegro

Andante cantabile

Allegretto grazioso

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Sonata in c-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2 *Moonlight*

Adagio sostenuto

Allegretto

Presto agitato

15 minute intermission

ALEXANDER SCRIABIN (1872-1915)

Sonata No. 2 in g-sharp minor, Op. 19 *Fantasy*

Andante

Presto

ENRIQUE GRANADOS (1867-1916)

From *Goyescas*, Op. 11

Los Requeiebros

El fandango

FRANZ LISZT (1811-1886)

Rhapsodie espagnole, S. 254

APRIL 30, 2017 AT 8PM

Bram Goldsmith Theater

Running Time: 100 minutes including a 15-minute intermission.

DECCA, EMI

Exclusive Management: ARTS MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC., 130 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019

Special thanks to Marilyn Ziering for her gift of the Steinway & Sons piano featured in tonight's performance.



About the Artist

IN HIS OWN WORDS

"There are often particular pieces that one has in mind to play that become starting points for a programme. In building it, one then thinks about how the pieces connect and progress from one to another, and how they come together to build an emotional arc over the evening. In this programme, the Schumann Arabesque is included as a kind of 'palate-cleanser', setting the intimate atmosphere for two classical sonatas. The sonatas themselves are very contrasted: the Mozart a sunny, joyous work; the Beethoven dark and brooding. The Scriabin second sonata that opens the second half follows the example of the *Moonlight* with its slow first movement, but the two 'Sonata-Fantasies' are also connected in that the scene that the poet Rellstab imagined when hearing the Beethoven that gave the piece its title (moonlight on Lake Lucerne) is similar to the watery, moonlit imagery that Scriabin himself imagined when writing his work. It is, one might say, the 'real' *Moonlight* sonata. Works from Granados' *Goyescas* work well next to the Scriabin as the music inhabits the same kind of luminously-coloured world, with dense, fluid piano writing. The music has an improvisation-like quality that makes for interesting variety at this point of the programme, after three piano sonatas. It seemed natural then to end with the Liszt Spanish Rhapsody, which continues with the vibrant Spanish rhythms of the Granados. It is one of Liszt's great 'showpieces', but one with lot of substance to it."

— Benjamin Grosvenor

BENJAMIN GROSVENOR British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor is internationally recognized for his electrifying performances and insightful interpretations. His virtuosic command over the most strenuous technical complexities underpins the remarkable depth and understanding of his musicianship. Benjamin is renowned for his distinctive sound, described as 'poetic and gently ironic, brilliant yet clear-minded, intelligent but not without humour, all translated through a beautifully clear and singing touch' (*The Independent*) making him one of the most sought-after young pianists in the world.

Benjamin first came to prominence as the outstanding winner of the Keyboard Final of the 2004 BBC Young Musician Competition at the age of eleven. Since then, he has become an internationally regarded pianist performing with orchestras including the London Philharmonic, RAI Torino, New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Tokyo Symphony, and in venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Centre, Singapore's Victoria Hall, The Frick Collection and Carnegie Hall. Benjamin has worked with numerous esteemed conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Jiří Bělohlávek, Semyon Bychkov, Andrey Boreyko, Sir Mark Elder, Alan Gilbert, Vladimir Jurowski, Andrew Litton, Andrew Manze, Ludovic Morlot, Kent Nagano, Alexander Shelley, Thomas Søndergård, Jac van Steen, John Storgards, Gabor Takacs-Nagy, Michael Tilson Thomas and François-Xavier Roth.

At just nineteen, Benjamin performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the First Night of the 2011 BBC Proms. Following re-invitations in 2012 for a performance with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Charles Dutoit and in 2014 for a recital and Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the BBC Philharmonic and Gianandrea Noseda Benjamin appeared in 2015 at the Last Night of the Proms performing Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Marin Alsop.

Recent and future highlights include engagements with the Cleveland and Hallé Orchestras, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Atlanta, San Francisco, Singapore, Melbourne, Washington National and KBS Symphony Orchestras. Major recital dates include Vienna Konzerthaus, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Cologne Philharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, the Lucerne Festival, La Roque d'Anthéron, International

Piano Series at the Southbank Centre as well as his first tour of South America. The forthcoming season sees Benjamin embark on new collaborations with the Filarmonica della Scala and Riccardo Chailly, with whom he will perform Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1, the Tonhalle-Orchestra Zurich and François-Xavier Roth, the Orchestra of St Luke's and Sir Roger Norrington, and with the London Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 under the baton of Alpeš Chauhan.

Benjamin enjoys incorporating chamber music collaborations into his schedule, including performances with the Escher, Elias and Endellion String Quartets, chamber ensembles of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal and the Naples Philharmonic, and at venues such as Paris' Musée du Louvre and London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. Since the 2015-16 season Benjamin has been invited to participate in the prestigious "Junge Wilde" series by Konzerthaus Dortmund, where over the course of three years he will perform on a number of occasions.

In 2011 Benjamin signed to Decca Classics, and in doing so has become the youngest British musician ever to sign to the label, and the first British pianist to sign to the label in almost 60 years. Benjamin's 2014 release *Dances*, a recital album that presents a historically and stylistically varied offering of works influenced by dance, has been described as 'breath-taking' (*The Guardian*), offering "performance after performance of surpassing brilliance and character" (*Gramophone Magazine*) and won the *BBC Music Magazine* Instrumental Award 2015. Autumn 2016 sees the release of Benjamin's third recital disc for Decca, *Homages*.

During his sensational career to date, Benjamin has received *Gramophone's* 'Young Artist of the Year and 'Instrumental Award', a *Classic Brits* 'Critics' Award', UK 'Critics' Circle Award' for Exceptional Young Talent and a Diapason d'Or 'Jeune Talent' Award. He has been featured in two BBC television documentaries, "BBC Breakfast" and "The Andrew Marr Show," as well as in CNN's "Human to Hero" series. The youngest of five brothers, Benjamin began playing the piano aged 6. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Christopher Elton and Daniel-Ben Pienaar, where he graduated in 2012 with the 'Queen's Commendation for Excellence' and in 2016 was made a Fellow. Benjamin has been supported since 2013 by EFG International, the widely