Emmanuel Despax

Piano

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Emmanuel Despax has gained international recognition as an artist whose interpretations bring a rare sincerity andimagination to the music.

A remarkable performer of romantic and post-romantic music, he has been invited to give recital performances inthe UK (Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, Chipping Campden and Petworth Festivals, and the Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham, where he was appointed artistic director in 2020 of a complete Beethoven piano sonata cycle); in France (Louvre Auditorium, Salle Cort ot, Salle Gaveau, International Festival Les Nuits Pianistiques in Aix-en-
Provence, L'été Musical au Poujoula, and Les Nuits du Château de la Moutte in Saint-Tropez); Benelux (Amsterdam,The Hague and the Palais des Beaux -Arts in Brussels); Cyprus (Pharos Arts Foundation); Italy (Fazioli auditorium); and in South America.

Past engagements include two tours of New Zealand, hailed by critics for his recitals in the prestigious Fazioli International Piano Series in Auckland and concerto performances with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. In theUK, Emmanuel Despax has played with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestras, among others. He is also regularly broadcast on Medici TV, France Musique, BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. His work as a talented broadcaster has included presenting a probing and approachable
edition of BBC Radio 3's Inside Music, and he is already amassing an impressive, critically acclaimed discography.

In addition to his recording of Brahms Piano Concerto No.1 with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Andrew Litton, prior releases include 'Spira, Spera' (Bach transcriptions) which was awarded Critics' Choice in International Piano ("Despax is awe-inspiring in his combination of virtuosity and intellectual grasp"). His concerto debut featured Saint-
Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2 and Stephen Goss Piano Concerto and his collection of Chopin preludes was Classic FM's"Album of the Week" and awarded five stars in Diapason. Despax also released a piano fantasy based on the themesof The Sound of Music in celebration of the musical's 60th anniversary.

His 2021 album of Chopin's piano concerti with the Chineke! Chamber Ensemble, was chosen as "Album of theWeek" by Classic FM and The Times: "[The result] is entrancing, with piano and string quintet intimately
interweaving… Despax's opening statement arrives like a blast of dynamite." His latest album release, *Après un rêve*,by Signum Records, has also gained recognition in The Times and Classic FM as "Album of the Week" and received a 5-star review in BBC Music Magazine: "Despax is a formidable pianist, thoughtful and imaginative. Like an expert painter at the canvas, he carefully layers and tones sound, expertly measuring touch and pedal. This is beautiful playing, on an elegant yet substantial album."

Born in Paris and now based in London, Emmanuel Despax started playing the piano in Aix -en-Provence before joining the Yehudi Menuhin School, then the Royal College of Music in London, studying with Ruth Nye, one of Claudio Arrau's star students. He won numerous awards during his studies (Chappell Medal, Tagore Gold Medal) andbenefited from the advice of Nikolai Demidenko, Leon Fleisher, Yehudi Menuhin, Dominique Merlet, Mstislav Rostropovich, Murray Perahia and András Schiff.

For his 2024 season, Emmanuel enjoyed collaborating with the Piatti Quartet at Kings Place followed by solo and chamber performances at London's Bechstein Hall. Later this year, Emmanuel will take part in a tour featuring a series of solo recitals, chamber performances, and masterclasses, spanning across China, Japan and Australia

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