



HARRISON PARROTT

Pierre-Laurent Aimard

Piano

Widely acclaimed as a key figure in the music of our time and as a uniquely significant interpreter of piano repertoire from every age, Pierre-Laurent Aimard enjoys an internationally celebrated career. In recognition of a life devoted to the service of music he was awarded the prestigious 2017 International Ernest von Siemens Music Prize.

Aimard performs throughout the world each season with major orchestras under conductors including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Peter Eötvös, Sir Simon Rattle and Vladimir Jurowski. He has been invited to curate, direct and perform in a number of residencies, with projects at Carnegie Hall, New York's Lincoln Center, Vienna's Konzerthaus, Berlin's Philharmonie, Frankfurt's Alte Oper, the Lucerne Festival, Mozarteum Salzburg, Cité de la Musique in Paris, the Tanglewood Festival and London's Southbank Centre. Aimard was the Artistic Director of the Aldeburgh Festival from 2009 to 2016; his final season was marked by a performance of Messiaen's *Catalogue d'oiseaux* with the concerts programmed from dawn to midnight.

This season sees the start of his three year tenure as Artist-in-Residence at Southbank Centre. During this first year he will perform Messiaen with the Aurora Orchestra, Mozart with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Ravel with the Philharmonia Orchestra and is the curator of a whole weekend dedicated to the music of Ligeti with whom he had a long association. Other highlights include recitals in Tokyo, Beijing, Moscow, St Petersburg, Paris, Vienna, New York and at the new Boulezaal in Berlin. Orchestral performances include concerts with Boston Symphony, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and a European tour with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, as well as a special Stockhausen project in Hamburg.

Born in Lyon in 1957, Pierre-Laurent Aimard studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Yvonne Loriod and in London with Maria Curcio. Early career landmarks included winning first prize in the 1973 Messiaen Competition at the age of 16 and being appointed, three years later, by Pierre Boulez to become the Ensemble intercontemporain's first solo pianist.

Aimard has had close collaborations with many leading composers including Kurtág, Stockhausen, Carter, Boulez and George Benjamin. Recent seasons have included the world premieres of Harrison Birtwistle's piano concerto *Responses; Sweet disorder and the carefully careless*, as well as Carter's last piece *Epigrams* for piano, cello and violin, which was written for Pierre-Laurent. Through his professorship at the Hochschule Köln as well as numerous series of concert lectures and workshops worldwide, he sheds an inspiring and very personal light on music of all periods.

During the 2008/09 season Aimard was an Associate Professor at the College de France, Paris and he is a member of the Bayerische Akademie der Schönen Künste. He was the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist Award in spring 2005 and was named 'Instrumentalist of the Year' by Musical America in 2007. In 2015 he launched a major online resource centred on the performance and teaching of Ligeti's piano music with filmed masterclasses and performances of the Études and other works by Ligeti in collaboration with Klavier-Festival Ruhr. (www.explorethescore.org).

Pierre-Laurent has made many highly successful recordings. His first Deutsche Grammophon release, Bach's *Art of Fugue*, received both the Diapason d'Or and Choc du Monde de la Musique awards, debuted at No.1 on Billboard's classical chart and topped iTunes' classical album download chart. In recent years Pierre-Laurent has been honoured with a Grammy award in 2005 for his recording of Ives' *Concord Sonata and Songs* and he was also presented with Germany's Schallplattenkritik Honorary Prize in 2009. His recent recording of Murail and Benjamin with the Bayerischer Rundfunk won the 2017 Gramophone award in the Contemporary category. He has now signed an exclusive contract with Pentatone records, his first recording being the complete *Catalogue d'oiseaux* for release in Spring 2018.



<http://pierrelaurentaimard.com>