

'British pianist Danny Driver showed how dazzling virtuosity can coexist with interpretive depth. His Tuesday night concert for San Francisco Performances tackled some of the most technically challenging works in the repertoire. While he catapulted confidently through reams of arpeggios, scales, and octave runs, he also avoided flashiness or superficiality. Rather, he played with crystalline precision, guiding the listener through structural intricacies and illuminating the connections between pieces with persuasive conviction.'

[San Francisco Classical Voice, Nov 2022]

Years ago my first trip to East Lothian's Lammermuir Festival involved an unforgettable concert by the pianist Danny Driver, playing Debussy and Ligeti... Since then Driver has become a Lammermuir favourite, and Ligeti was back on the menu for this year's concert in Dunbar parish church, where Driver played the Transylvanian composer's Piano Concerto..... Driver was a dynamo of rhythmic energy, revelling in Ligeti's whirlwind of a score, and creating sound that was often bizarre, mostly impossible, but never dull.

[The Times, Sep 2022]

'JS Bach's Fifth French Suite was full of personality, with ornamentation daringly abundant. There was a palpable sense of enjoyment of the physicality of Bach's writing, particularly in the Courante and the irrepressible closing Gigue. Driver is a fine colourist too, the theme of Schumann's Études Symphoniques richly rendered. This is Schumann at his most unflaggingly virtuoso, and it's a piece that can turn into a mere speed-fest in some hands. Driver's focus was instead on elucidating the luxuriant textures and revealing the sheer imagination with which Schumann develops his theme...'

[Financial Times Nov 2016]

'[The Ligeti Études are] clearly music that he admires hugely and understands profoundly, and, as he writes in his sleeve notes, the challenge is "putting the emotional and evocative power of these pieces centre stage despite their intransigent virtuosity". He manages to do that better than any of the other complete surveys of these pieces I've heard; only Pierre-Laurent Aimard's magisterial recordings, split across two totally separate discs, match and sometimes surpass his insights.'

[The Guardian, Mar 2021]

'What splendidly adventurous programming! Danny Driver has never once disappointed in my experience, and this being my first concert at the Wigmore Hall since before March, it was a delight to hear performances as radiant as these.'

[Seen & Heard International, Oct 2020]

**** '[The Ligeti Études] require even more virtuosity, sometimes of a brain-teasing sort, and Danny Driver supplies it all, beginning with rock-solid attack in the polyrhythms of *Désordre*. A haunting beauty is quick to arrive in *Cordes à vide*, and the contrasts keep coming through the gentle swing of *Arc-en-ciel*, the atmospheric *Automne à Varsovie* and the hypnotic *Galamb Borong*. Driver paces *L'escalier du diable* securely, and allows the final *Canon* to evaporate with a shrug, leaving you wanting more.'

[BBC Music Magazine, Mar 2021]

'[The Amy Beach Concerto] is a big, virtuoso vehicle demanding great endurance and a bravura technique (the first movement lasting nearly 17 minutes is followed by a very difficult vivace perpetuum mobile...). Driver surmounts these demands with real artistry and, in the lovely slow movement, immense sensitivity.'



RECITAL - 'NOCTURNES'

Schumann Des Abends (Fantasiestücke Op 12)
Gabriela Lena Frank Nocturno Nazqueño
Beethoven Sonata in C sharp minor Op 27 no 1
Debussy Soirées dans Grenade (Estampes)
Scriabin Sonata no 9 ('Black Mass')
Thomas Adès Darknesse Visible
Fauré Nocturne no 6 in D flat major
Ravel Gaspard de la Nuit

RECITAL - 'BARCAROLLES & VARIATIONS'

Fauré Prelude Op 103 no. 1 in D flat major
Fauré Barcarolle no. 4 in A flat major
Fauré Theme and Variations in C sharp minor
Fauré Barcarolle no. 5 in F sharp minor
Franck Prélude, Chorale & Fugue
Boulanger D'un Vieux Jardin; D'un Jardin Clair
Ravel Une barque sur l'Océan
Schumann Symphonic Studies Op 13 (1852)

RECITAL - 'LIGETI, ETUDES, COSMOS'

Julian Anderson Sensation
György Ligeti Galamb Borong, Fém
Joshua Uzoigwe Egwu Amala ('Talking Drums')
Deirdre McKay Ash
György Ligeti Cordes-à-Vide, Fanfares
Martin Suckling Orrery
Thomas Adès Three Mazurkas
Bill Evans Peace Piece
Ligeti White on white, L'éscalier du Diable

CONCERTO SELECTION

BEETHOVEN Concertos no 1, 3, 4, 5

MOZART Concertos K467, K482, K488, K491

SCHUMANN A minor Op 54

BRAHMS B-flat major Op 83

SAINT-SAENS Concerto no 5 ('Egyptian')

RACHMANINOFF Concertos no 2, 3, Rhapsody

AMY BEACH Concerto in C-sharp minor

TCHAIKOVSKY Concerto no 1

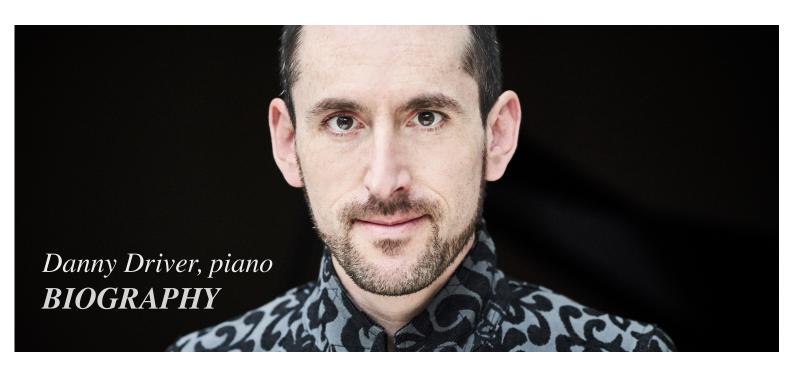
GERSHWIN Rhapsody in Blue

DOROTHY HOWELL Concerto in D minor

ERIK CHISHOLM Hindustani Concerto

YORK BOWEN Concertos no 3 & 4

GYÖRGY LIGETI Piano Concerto



'wonderfully conceived and stunningly executed....this was the most lifeaffirming concert I've attended in a long time.' [Bachtrack]

Pianist Danny Driver is recognised internationally as an artist of sophistication, insight and musical depth. His studies at Cambridge University and the Royal College of Music inspired his holistic approach to performance, from which he derives a vibrant brand of programming that he brings to concert halls and music festivals across the UK, Europe, Asia and North America. His breadth of repertoire and musical curiosity are also reflected in his recordings for Hyperion, in which he has explored both mainstream and neglected music from the baroque period through to the present day, recently releasing Ligeti's complete Études for Piano to widespread international acclaim.

A Gramophone Award nominated artist, Driver has performed with orchestras across the globe including the BBC Scottish Symphony, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, BBC NOW, Hallé, Minnesota, Bournemouth Symphony, Philharmonia, American Symphony, RTÉ Concert, Hong Kong Pro Arte, Queensland Symphony, Kuopio Symphony, and Uppsala Chamber Orchestra. His many collaborations with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra have included performances across the UK, at London's Cadogan Hall and at the BBC Proms (where he has performed twice as a soloist). He has worked with conductors including Andrew Litton, Charles Dutoit, Martyn Brabbins, Dalia Stasevska, Alexander Shelley, Mario Venzago, Anna-Maria Helsing, Marzena Diakun, Rebecca Miller, Rory Macdonald and Sir James Macmillan.

Driver's recital career to date has included numerous appearances at London's Wigmore Hall, including four live-streamed solo and chamber recitals during the 2020-21 lockdown period, and a three-concert series in 2021-22 devoted to György Ligeti and his musical world. Elsewhere Driver has given solo recitals at the Southbank Centre's International Piano Series, Music Toronto, San Francisco Performances, Montreal's Salle Bourgie, and Klavierraritäten Husum, while enjoying ongoing associations with festivals such as the Lammermuir (Scotland), Lichfield (England) and Bard Summerscape (USA), where his performances of Musorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Saint-Saëns' 'Egyptian' Concerto, and Schubert's *Wanderer* Fantasy have met with standing ovations.

Driver's passion for chamber music has generated invitations to festivals such as O/Modernt and Gothenburg Chamber Music Festival (Sweden), Australian Chamber Music Festival, Engadin Festival (Switzerland), and the Dante Festival (UK). It has found expression in long-standing musical partnerships with violinist Chloë Hanslip, baritone Christian Immler, and cellist-composer Oliver Coates. Recent projects have included a complete traversal of Beethoven's Sonatas for Violin and Piano at with Chloë Hanslip at Turner Sims Concert Hall (UK), also recorded live for Rubicon Classics (2017), and lieder recitals with Christian Immler at the Salle Bourgie (Montreal), Deutschlandfunk Raderbergkonzerte (Köln), and Maison de la Radio (Paris). Driver has also played with esteemed string quartets including JACK, Parker, Carducci, and Brodsky Quartets.

Driver's long relationship with Hyperion Records label has spawned a varied and internationally acclaimed discography of works by composers including Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Handel, York Bowen, Mili Balakirev, Robert Schumann, and Erik Chisholm. His recordings have won him awards including Limelight Magazine's Instrumental Recording of the Year 2014 (Handel Suites), inclusion in the New York Times' list of 2017's Best Classical Recordings (Piano Concertos by Beach/Howell/Chaminade) and two Gramophone Award Nominations (York Bowen Piano Sonatas, and Beach/Howell/Chaminade). His most recent release of György Ligeti's Piano Études has met with particular critical acclaim, including an International Classical Music Awards nomination for best solo instrument recording of 2021: "Driver, as fleet of finger as this formidably challenging writing demands, has a mind that searches beyond contrivance; these are transfixing performances" [The Sunday Times]. Forthcoming recordings include works by Schumann and Fauré.

Danny Driver resides in London with his family. He teaches a small class of pianists at the Royal College of Music, where he was appointed Professor of Piano & Contemporary Piano in 2016.