

Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor makes his recital debut at the Barbican Centre on 23 January 2015 alongside recitals in Birmingham, Oxford and Tunbridge Wells

Wednesday 21 January, 19:30pm | Birmingham Town Hall
Thursday 22 January, 19:30pm | St John the Evangelist Church, Oxford
Friday 23 January, 19:30pm | Barbican Centre, London
Friday 20 March, 19:30pm | Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



Jean-Philippe Rameau
Gavotte and Doubles from the Suite in A minor

Johann Sebastian Bach
Ciaccona from Partita in D minor BWV 1004, arr. by Ferruccio Busoni

César Franck
Prélude, Chorale et Fugue

Frédéric Chopin
Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op. 60
Two Mazurkas, Op. 63 No. 2 and Op. 30 No. 4
Ballade No. 3 in A-flat major, Op. 47

Enrique Granados
3 pieces from Goyescas

‘The most important British pianist to emerge in decades...he’s one in a million - several million.’ - The Independent

Outstanding British pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** makes his much-anticipated recital debut at the **Barbican Centre** on **23 January** with a recital programme of works by **Rameau, Bach, Franck and Chopin** following recitals of the same repertoire at **Birmingham Town Hall** on 21 January the **St John the Evangelist International Piano Series**, **Oxford** on 22 January and at the **Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells** on 20 March. This follows the release of his latest album ‘**Dances**’ on **DECCA Classics** which received a full house of glowing reviews in the UK and European media.

Marking the **250th Anniversary** of **Jean-Philippe Rameau’s** death, Grosvenor’s recital programme opens with a performance of the great French Baroque composer’s **Gavotte**

and Doubles from the Suite in A minor. This is followed by a coupling of two homages to Johann Sebastian Bach by the early 20th Century Italian composer Ferruccio Busoni and Belgian composer César Franck. The programme ends with 3 Pieces from Goyescas by Spanish composer Enrique Granados. Grosvenor performed the same recital programme in November 2014 at the Lucerne Piano Festival and will perform the programme on his tour of the United States and Canada in February/ March 2015.

As Grosvenor explains:

“Beginning with a light-hearted early baroque amuse-bouche by Rameau, this programme moves on to two reimaginations of music of that era: Busoni’s monumental recreation of Bach’s Chaconne, and Franck’s Prelude, Chorale and Fugue, another tribute to Bach. These two sombre works are then followed by two works by Chopin, more optimistic in character. The Barcarolle, a Venetian gondolier’s song, and third Ballade are full of heartfelt lyricism; by turns tender, delicate, troubled and impassioned.”

Grosvenor performed twice at this year’s BBC Proms. On 8 August 2014, he joined the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Gianandrea Noseda for Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1 and the seldom-performed Franck *Symphonic Variations*. On 1 September Grosvenor took to the stage of Cadogan Hall to give the world premiere of *Day Break Shadows Flee* by Judith Weir, the recently appointed Master of the Queen’s Music.



Track Listing: *Dances*

Bach	Partita No. 4, BWV828
Chopin	Polonaise No. 5 in F# minor, Op. 44
Chopin	<i>Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante</i>
Scriabin	Ten Mazurkas Op. 3, Nos. 4 / 6 / 9
Scriabin	Valse in A flat major, Op. 38
Granados	<i>Valses Poéticos</i>
Schulz-Evler	<i>Blue Danube</i>
Albeniz	Tango op. 165 no.2 arr. Godowsky
Gould	Boogie-Woogie Etude

In 2011 Grosvenor made history as the youngest soloist ever to perform at the **First Night of the Proms at the age of 19**. At the time, the Telegraph commented that **“Tennis has Andy Murray, the piano has Benjamin Grosvenor. He’s our pianistic Team GB.”** His recordings have garnered such accolades as the Young Artist of the Year Award, the Classical Brits Critics Award, and the Diapason d’Or.

Latest release on DECCA Classics

Grosvenor has been performing many of these pieces in concert for some years in preparation for the recording. At his Southbank Centre debut, where he presented much of the same programme, the Telegraph wrote: **“The Bach Partita was marvelously light, Grosvenor’s super-dry bass notes acting like the tiny push that keeps the balloon aloft ... Fire and air are Grosvenor’s elements, and under his hands music seems to be made entirely from them”.** The Independent added further to the accolades, **“With virtuosity of this calibre, allied to a probing musical intelligence, the sky’s the limit.”**

Reviews of Grosvenor’s ‘Dances’ album:

“This well-planned recital disc ... is consistently brilliant.”

"An invitation to take a twirl round the ballroom with Grosvenor is one worth taking up."

- Financial Times

"Benjamin Grosvenor may well be the most remarkable young pianist of our time..."

- Gramophone

"A prodigy who is maturing into a real star"

- The Observer

"His sense of rhythm - vital for a dancey disc - is so assured that you imagine if you dropped him, he'd bounce."

- Sinfini

"One pleasure follows another, with carefully balanced textures, widely varied degrees of touch and virtuosity that comes as naturally as breathing."

- The Times

Benjamin Grosvenor

British pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** is internationally recognized for his electrifying performances and penetrating interpretations. An exquisite technique and ingenious flair for tonal colour are the hallmarks, which make 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, Tokyo Symphony, and in venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Centre, Singapore's Victoria Hall, The Frick Collection and Carnegie Hall (at the age of thirteen). Benjamin has worked with numerous esteemed conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Jiří Bělohlávek, Semyon Bychkov, Andrey Boreyko and Vladimir Jurowski.

At just nineteen, Benjamin performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra on the First Night of the 2011 BBC Proms to a sold-out Royal Albert Hall. Benjamin returned to the BBC Proms in 2012, performing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Charles Dutoit. Recent and future highlights include engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Konzerthausorchester Berlin and Orquesta de Euskadi, as well as recital debuts at the Boston Celebrity Piano Series, Club Musical de Québec, Salle Gaveau, Theatre des Champs-Élysées and Southbank Centre, London. Benjamin continues to incorporate chamber music collaborations into his schedule, including a performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall's International Chamber Music Series with the Endellion String Quartet, alongside further collaborations with the Escher String Quartet and Elias Quartet.

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. Recorded with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and James Judd, Benjamin's most recent recording for Decca includes Saint Saëns's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G Major*, interspersed



with transcriptions by Godowsky and Percy Grainger. The recording has been top of the Specialist Classical Charts.

During his brief, but 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*, *The Andrew Marr Show*, CNN's *Human to Hero* series and has recently signed a three-year agreement with EFG International (EFG), the widely respected global private banking group.

The youngest of five brothers, Benjamin began playing the piano aged 6. In July 2012, he graduated from the Royal Academy of Music, where he was awarded the 'The Queen's commendation for excellence'. Benjamin has had lessons with Christopher Elton, Leif Ove Andsnes, Stephen Hough, and Arnaldo Cohen amongst others.

<http://www.benjaminrosvenor.co.uk/>

Benjamin's future dates include...

Sunday 11 January 2015	Aarhus Symfonisk Sal, Musikhuset Aarhus	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Thursday 15 January 2015	SWR-Sinfonieorchester Konzerthaus Freiburg	BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1 in C
Sunday 18 January 2015	Bern Klee Museum	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Wednesday 21 January 2015	Birmingham Town Hall, UK	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Thursday 22 January 2015	St John the Evangelist Church, Oxford	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Friday 23 January 2015	Barbican Centre, London	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Sunday 25 January 2015	National Concert Hall, Dublin	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Monday 2 February	Salle Gaveau, Paris	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Wednesday 4 February 2015	BBC NOW: The Brangwyn Hall, Swansea	BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1
Thursday 5 February 2015	BBC NOW: The Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff	BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1
Saturday 7 February 2015	Flagey Piano Days, Brussels	RAMEAU, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Sunday 8 February 2015	Casa da Musica, Porto	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS

Tuesday 24 February 2015	The Schubert Club, Ordway Center, Minnesota	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Thursday 26 February 2015	Brendle Recital Hall, Wake Forest University, North Carolina	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Sunday 1 March 2015	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Tuesday 3 March 2015	Palais Montcalm, Quebec City	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Friday 6 March 2015	Vancouver	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
8 & 9 March 2015	Lincoln Hall, Portland State University, Portland International Piano Series	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, RAVEL, GRANADOS, Scriabin, Strauss/Schulz-Evler
Saturday 14 March 2015	SWR Freiburg and Baden- Baden: Konzerthaus, Freiburg	BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 3
Friday 20 March 2015	Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Sunday 22 March 2015	BASF Ludwigshafen	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
Saturday 28 March 2015	Teatro della Pergola, Florence, Italy	RAMEAU, BACH/BUSONI, FRANCK, CHOPIN, GRANADOS
10 & 11 April 2015	Singapore Symphony Orchestra	LISZT Piano Concerto No. 2
30 April, 2 & 3 May 2015	Houston Symphony Orchestra	BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1

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