

François Dumont Bio

Born in Lyon, French pianist François Dumont's international career was launched by his prize-winning successes at the Chopin, Queen Elisabeth, Clara Haskil, and Monte Carlo Piano Masters competitions.

François just made his debut in the mythical Musikverein in Vienna.

This season's highlights will include performances of Liszt's Totentanz with the Orchestre National de France, conducted by François-Xavier Roth and a Chopin programme in the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

At the age of fourteen, he entered the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique and studied with Bruno Rigutto. He subsequently studied at the prestigious International Piano Academy Lake Como with artists such as Dmitri Bashkurov, Leon Fleisher, William Grant Naboré, Murray Perahia, Menahem Pressler, Andreas Staier and Fou Ts'ong. He studied as a Theo Lieven Scholar in the Lugano Conservatory with William Grant Naboré.

François recently gave performances of Liszt 1st concerto in the Flâneries de Reims and in the Arsenal de Metz with Orchestre National de Metz conducted by David Reiland, as well as Poulenc Piano concerto in the prestigious Festival de la Chaise-Dieu with the Orchestre National de Lyon.

Much involved in contemporary music, François Dumont has collaborated with composers such as the late Henri Dutilleux, and recently with Tristant Murail and Pascal Dusapin. Composers such as Graciane Finzi, Sophie Lacaze, Florentine Mulsant, Allain Gaussin, Éric Tanguy and Nicolas Bacri have dedicated works to him which he has been very honored to premiere, in festivals such as festival Messiaen au pays de la Meije and Festival de Radio-France Montpellier.

Leonard Slatkin chose Mr. Dumont as the soloist to record a CD of the two Ravel Piano Concerti with the Orchestre National de Lyon, which has been released on the Naxos label with great critic acclaim. "François Dumont, 34, has total artistic and technical grasp of the music, with plenty of accented high energy and keenly articulated arpeggios in the outer movements. In the Adagio he has just the right touch of rubato, while maintaining a seamless forward flow that sustains its sensitive lyricism, the finest I've heard in a long time."

says the American Record Guide.

Mr. Dumont has appeared as soloist with orchestras around the world such as the Mariinsky Theater Orchestra, Warsaw National Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestre National d'Île de France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orchestre National de Lille, Orchestre National de Lorraine, the Orquesta Nacional de Colombia, and the Wuhan Philharmonic with conductors such as Christoph Altstaedt, Arie van Beek, Philippe Bender, Grant Llewellyn, Jesús López-Cobos, Julien Masmondet, David Reiland, François-Xavier Roth, Stefan Sanderling, Alexander Sladkovsky, Leonard Slatkin, Ransom Wilson, and Antoni Wit. He also regularly appears at festivals such as Festival International de la Roque d'Anthéron, the 'Piano aux Jacobins' Festival in Toulouse, Chopin Festival in Nohant, Radio-France Montpellier Festival, Chopin à Paris Bagatelle Festival, "Chopin and his Europe" Festival in Warsaw, Nuits du Suquet in Cannes, Journées Ravel in Montfort l'Amaury, Round Top Festival, and the Ljubljana Festival.

François Dumont recently toured Italy with Les Siècles Orchestra conducted by François-Xavier Roth, performing both the Franck and Ravel concertos. He made his debut at the Paris Philharmonie in performing Schumann Piano Concerto with the Orchestre Padeloup and Christoph Altstaedt, conducting.

He also toured cities in France with the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie performing Mozart Piano Concerto No. 9 "Jeunehomme." Other concerts during the season took him to Taiwan, Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium and Russia.

François Dumont's discography includes the complete Mozart Sonatas (for Anima Records) and a Chopin album (for Artalinna) both of which received the "Maestro" award from the French magazine *Pianiste*. Other solo recordings include a Wagner/Liszt program (Piano Classics) as well as a live double CD that includes all his performances from the Chopin Competition, released by the National Chopin Institute in Warsaw. His recording of the complete piano music of Maurice Ravel (Piano Classics) has received critical acclaim. Two volumes of keyboard works by J.S. Bach called "Looking for B.A.C.H" on the Artalinna label were released in 2015 and 2017, respectively of which the French critic Jacques Drillon wrote "coherence, dignity, richness of affects. One thinks of Edwin Fisher." His recording of Mozart Concerti K. 271 and K.466 with the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne have been praised for their "clarity of elocution", their "ideal sense of equilibrium" and "delightful classicism". His collaboration with the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne continued with live recordings of Mozart Concerti K.453 and K.488 which he conducted from the keyboard. His complete Chopin Nocturnes album was praised by the BBC Music Magazine for his "singing tone" and the International Piano Magazine considers it "a stunning new version that sets him apart", while the American magazine *Fanfare* wrote "There are few recent recordings to compare with this one." His latest recording is dedicated to Fauré's nocturnes, performed on a 1922 Gaveau piano. It has been received by great critical acclaim including the « Supersonic » award from *Pizzicato Magazine* in Luxembourg. Chamber music is an important part of Mr. Dumont's musical life and performances. He frequently collaborates with musical partners such as Sayaka Shoji, Tabea Zimmerman; Marc Coppey; Augustin Dumay; Henri Demarquette; Xavier Philipps; the Prazak, Talich, Zemlinsky, Voce and Debussy Quartets. As a member of the Trio *Élégiaque*, he recorded the complete Beethoven and Schubert Trios. After a busy summer performing in festivals such as Radio-France Montpellier, La Vézère, La Chaise-Dieu in France and Quicena Musical in San Sebastián in Spain, François Dumont's schedule includes various performances in Switzerland, Spain, a Japan Tour as well as a recital in Paris, Salle Gaveau, for the release of his new Chopin album, « Ballades and Impromptus »

François Dumont is piano professor at the Haute-Ecole de Musique de Genève / Neuchâtel, and is regularly invited for masterclasses in France, Switzerland and abroad.