Sir Stephen Hough

Piano

Named by *The Economist* as one of Twenty Living Polymaths, Sir Stephen Hough combines a distinguished career as a pianist with those of composer and writer. He was the first classical performer to be awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year Honours 2014, and was awarded a Knighthood for Services to Music in the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2022.

In the 2023/24 season, Hough performed over 80 concerts across four continents. Concerto highlights include engagements with Oslo Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Dusseldorf Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, and Nagoya and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestras. As 2023 Artist in Residence with Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, Hough performs the complete Rachmaninov concertos in Brazil. Recent highlights include the successful UK tour with Iceland Symphony Orchestra in completion of his successful residency, and performances with BBC Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Concertgebouworkest, Opéra de Rouen, Philharmonia, Sydney and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras, National Symphony Orchestra in Taiwan. Upcoming recital appearances include the opening of Wigmore Hall’s 2023/24 season, a recital at the Beijing Music Festival and at the Sala São Paolo, amongst others. In March 2024, Hough will embark on a tour of the US with the Castalian Quartet, where they will perform his own string quartet alongside piano quintet works.

2024 sees the premiere of Hough’s own piano concerto, *The World of Yesterday* with Utah Symphony and the Hallé. The concerto receives its US premiere in January 2024, followed by its UK premiere in May in Bridgewater Hall, with two repeat performances, and a performance in Sheffield.

Hough is a regular guest at festivals such as Salzburg, Mostly Mozart, Edinburgh, La Roque-d'Anthéron, Aldeburgh, and the BBC Proms, where he has made 30 appearances. Recent recitals include the Bridgewater Hall, Musée du Louvre, Piano aux Jacobins, Toppan Hall, The Sage Gateshead, and 92nd Street Y.

Hough’s extensive discography of around 70 CDs has garnered international awards including the Diapason d’Or de l’Année, several Grammy nominations, and eight Gramophone Awards including Record of the Year and the Gold Disc. Recent releases for Hyperion, now available digitally, include Beethoven’s complete piano concertos (Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra/Hannu Lintu), *The Final Piano Pieces* of Brahms, Chopin’s Nocturnes, a Schumann recital, Schubert Piano Sonatas, and Elgar’s Violin Sonata with Renaud Capuçon for Warner Classics, and his recording of Mompou's *Música callada* released in 2023 (Hyperion). His award-winning iPad app The Liszt Sonata was released by Touch Press in 2013.

As a composer, Hough’s song cycle *Songs of Love and Los*s, co-commissioned by Wigmore Hall, The 92nd Street Y, New York, and Tippet Rise in Montana, received its world premiere in January 2023. He wrote the commissioned work for the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, performed by all 30 competitors, and his String Quartet No.1 *Les Six Rencontres,*commissioned for the Takács Quartet, received its world premiere in Costa Mesa, California in 2021, and was recorded for Hyperion Records, due for release in January 2023. Hough has also been commissioned by Musée du Louvre, London’s National Gallery, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, the Genesis Foundation, Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation, Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi and the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet. His music is published by Josef Weinberger Ltd.

As an author, Hough’s memoir *Enough: Scenes from Childhood*, published by Faber & Faber in Spring 2023. It follows his collection of essays *Rough Ideas: Reflections on Music and More* (Faber & Faber, 2019) – a 2020 Royal Philharmonic Society Award winner and one of *Financial Times*’ Book of the Year 2019 – as well as his first novel, *The Final Retreat* (Sylph Editions, 2018). He has also been published by *The New York Times,* *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Guardian* and the *Evening Standard*. Hough is an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple, an Honorary Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society, a Visiting Fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University, is an Honorary Fellow of Cambridge University’s Girton College, the International Chair of Piano Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music (of which he was made a Companion in 2019), and is on the faculty of The Juilliard School in New York.



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