Jean Rondeau

Harpsichord/conductor

Described as “one of the most natural performers one is likely to hear on a classical music stage these days” by the Washington Post, Jean Rondeau is a real ambassador for his instrument. His outstanding talent and approach to harpsichord repertoire have been critically acclaimed, marking him out as one of today’s leading harpsichordists.

In the 2019/20 season, Jean Rondeau returns to Wigmore Hall, Gstaad Menuhin Festival as well as Carnegie Hall, following a sold-out recital debut last season, for a performance with Orchestra of St Luke’s under Bernard Labadie. He also returns to Germany for a special focus at the Barocktage at the Berlin Staatsoper performing a harpsichord recital and a jazz recital on piano based on improvisation by music of Scarlatti, as well as performing Poulenc’s Concerto Champêtre with Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz in Ludwigshafen.

Jean Rondeau is signed to Erato as an exclusive recording artist, where he has recorded several albums championing ancient music, which is core to his musical identity.

His debut album, Imagine, featuring music by J. S. Bach, was released in January 2015 and received the*Choc de Classica*and recognition from the Académie Charles Cros. His second recording on Erato, Vertigo (*Diapason d’Or),* paid tribute to two Baroque composers from his native France: Jean- Philippe Rameau and Joseph-Nicolas-Pancrace Royer. His third album, Dynastie, explores keyboard concertos by Bach and his three most famous sons: Wilhelm Friedemann, Carl Philipp Emanuel, and Johann Christian. He is play-conducting from the harpsichord on this album.

His latest album was dedicated to Scarlatti’s Sonata and won *the Diapason d’Or de l’année* 2019.

Jean Rondeau also play-conducts: he play-conducted the Kammerorchester Basel last season and other play-conducting engagements include Concerto Köln, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Stuttgart KammerOrchestra.

He also regularly play-conducts his own ensemble in the *Dynastie* project.

New music is also important to Jean Rondeau. In 2018, he played the world premiere (BBC commission) of Eve Risser’s *Furakèla* for solo harpsichord at the BBC PROMS and also approaches new music as a composer himself. In 2016, Jean Rondeau composed his first original score for a film, Christian Schwochow’s *Paula*, which was premiered at the 2016 Locarno Film Festival.

In addition to his engagements as a soloist, recitalist and conductor, Jean Rondeau also regularly gives masterclasses around the world. This season includes masterclasses at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, the Gstaad Academy, Hong Kong University and at the Juilliard School in New York City.

Jean Rondeau studied harpsichord with Blandine Verlet at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, followed by training in continuo, organ, piano, jazz and improvisation, and conducting. He completed his musical training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In 2012, he became one of the youngest performers ever to take First Prize at the International Harpsichord Competition in Bruges (MAfestival 2012), aged 21 years old.