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 has been critically acclaimed, marking him out as one of today’s leading harpsichordists.

In the 2020/21 season, Jean Rondeau makes his debut at the Wiener Konzerthaus playing a solo recital in a Bach and Scarlatti programme. He also debuts at Konzerthaus Dortmund, returns to Köln Philharmonie and plays Poulenc’s *Concerto Champêtre* at Essen Philharmonie. Rondeau also continues his various collaborations with his chamber music partners: this season includes several recitals in duo with lutenist Thomas Dunford and concerts as an active member of ensembles Nevermind and Jasmin Toccata. He also performs with the Jupiter ensemble at Seine Musicale, and in June 2021 tours his *Bach Dynasty* project with his own ensemble, play-conducting.

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 solo album was dedicated to Scarlatti’s Sonata and won the Diapason d’Or de l’année *2019*. In May 2020, Jean released his duo album with lutenist Thomas Dunford *Barricades*, which was critically acclaimed.

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

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 Royal Academy of Music and other past teaching engagement include Gstaad Academy and Hong Kong University.

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.