Francesco Piemontesi
Piano

Francesco Piemontesi is a pianist of exceptional refinement of expression, which is allied to a consummate technical skill. Widely renowned for his interpretation of Mozart and the early Romantic repertoire, Piemontesi’s pianism and sensibility has a close affinity too with the later 19th century and 20th century repertoire of Brahms, Liszt, Dvořák, Ravel, Debussy, Bartók and beyond. Of one of his great teachers and mentors, Alfred Brendel, Piemontesi says that Brendel taught him "to love the detail of things".

The 2021/22 season leads him to orchestras such as London Philharmonic Orchestra and Robin Ticciati with whom he will play the opening concerts of the new concert halls in Ankara and Istanbul, followed by engagements with Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Gürzenich Orchestra, Philharmonia Zürich, Wiener Symphoniker, Seattle Symphony and Frankfurt Museumsorchester under the baton of Constantinos Carydis. Recital engagements take him to Klavierfestival Ruhr, L’Aquila, Paris, Monte-Carlo, Wiener Konzerthaus, Basel, Las Palmas and Schubertiade Schwarzenberg.

Recent highlights include Piemontesi’s residency at the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, marking the first-ever residency the Orchestra has named, as well as his debut appearance with Berliner Philharmoniker. Francesco Piemontesi regularly appears with major ensembles worldwide: London Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, NHK Symphony, Cleveland orchestras, Israel Philharmonic, Symphony Orchestra of the Bavarian Radio, Munich Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Orchestre National de France, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Orchestra Nazionale della RAI di Torino and Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. He has performed with conductors such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Charles Dutoit, Ivan Fischer, Daniel Harding, Manfred Honeck, Marek Janowski, Neeme Järvi, Emmanuel Krivine, Ton Koopman, Zubin Mehta, Roger Norrington, Gianandrea Noseda, Antonio Pappano and Yuri Temirkanov.

Piemontesi also performs chamber music with a variety of partners including Leif Ove Andsnes, Yuri Bashmet, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Leonidas Kavakos, Stephen Kovacevich, Heinrich Schiff, Christian Tetzlaff, Jörg Widmann, Tabea Zimmermann and the Emerson Quartet.

In the past he has appeared in many prestigious venues including Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Berlin Philharmonie, Vienna Musikverein, London's Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York and Suntory Hall Tokyo. He has performed at the Salzburg, Lucerne, Edinburgh, Verbier and Aix-en-Provence Festivals, La Roque d’Anthéron, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festivals and at New York Mostly Mozart. He is currently Artist in Series (Schubert-Cycle) at the Wigmore Hall.

In 2019, Piemontesi released a disc entitled ‘Schubert Last Piano Sonatas’ with Pentatone. Previous recordings include Liszt’s Années de Pelerinage, Mozart’s Piano Concertos with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Andrew Manze on Linn, and for Naïve he has recorded Debussy Préludes and Mozart solo piano works.

Born in Locarno, Francesco Piemontesi studied with Arie Vardi before working with Alfred Brendel, Murray Perahia, Cécile Ousset and Alexis Weissenberg. He rose to international prominence with prizes at several major competitions, including the 2007 Queen Elisabeth Competition. Since 2012, Piemontesi has been the Artistic Director of the Settimane Musicali di Ascona.