Jean Rondeau

Harpsichord/conductor

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

A programming mainstay of previous seasons, J.S. Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* remains a notable highlight in 2024/25 with Rondeau performing the harpsichord masterwork at the Wiener Konzerthaus, Brucknerhaus Linz, and Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia Milan. Equally prominent is Rondeau’s new improvisatory programme titled *Sisyphus*, which he brings to the Berlin Philharmonie, London’s Southbank Centre, Innsbruck Festwochen der Alten Musik and Fundación Juan March in Madrid. Rondeau’s exploration of French harpsichord masterpieces underscores upcoming recital appearances at Wigmore Hall, Forum Alte Musik Zürich, Músicas Cercadas Zamora, and Bachfest Leipzig. North American and European tours with the ensemble Nevermind – which recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary – are also scheduled throughout the season including concerts at Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Philharmonie de Paris, and Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music Budapest. Rondeau’s long-standing chamber music collaborations also include concerts at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam with Thomas Dunford, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ with Nicolas Altstaedt, and the Haydneum in Budapest with Anna Besson.

2024/25 also includes performances of *UNDR*, a new creation inspired by the *Goldberg Variations* and composed by Rondeau in collaboration with percussionist Tancrède Kummer. After a world premiere at La Grange au Lac d'Evian described as "explosive" by the national press and subsequent performances at the Konzerthaus Berlin and Musikfest Stuttgart, this season sees Rondeau and Kummer bring their creation to the Philharmonie de Paris, Konzerthaus Dortmund, and AMR Geneva. *UNDR* represents Rondeau’s latest foray into the world of new music, following the 2016 premiere of his first original film score for Christian Schwochow’s *Paula* at Locarno Film Festival and the 2018 world premiere of Eve Risser’s *Furakèla* for solo harpsichord at the BBC PROMS.

Rondeau is signed to Erato, with whom he has recorded several albums championing ancient music. His release of *Gradus Ad Parnassum* in 2023 was called “a triumph” by *Gramophone*, with Rondeau’s playing described as “quietly audacious” in the *New York Times*. His previous album featured J. S. Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* (2022) and was met with international critical acclaim, described by *Gramophone* as “mesmerising”, and earned a 5-star review from *BBC Music Magazine*. Earlier publications include his debut album *Imagine* (2015, winner of the Choc de Classica), *Vertigo* (2016, winner of that year’s Diapason d’Or), *Dynastie* (2017), a collection of Scarlatti Sonatas (2019) that won that year’s Diapason d’Or de l’Année, *Barricades* (2020) - recorded with Thomas Dunford – and *Melancholy Grace* (2021), both of which garnered widespread critical acclaim.

In addition to his engagements as a soloist, recitalist and conductor, Rondeau is in high demand as a teacher. He has given masterclasses worldwide from the Gstaad Academy to the University of Hong Kong and makes regular return visits to the Juilliard School in New York.

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.