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Jean-Yves Thibaudet **Piano** 

Artists & Tours

Through elegant musicality and an insightful approach to both contemporary and established repertoire, Jean-Yves Thibaudet has earned a reputation as one of the world's finest pianists. He is especially known for his diverse interests beyond the classical world; in addition to his many forays into jazz and opera—including works which he transcribed himself for the piano—Thibaudet has forged profound friendships around the globe, leading to fruitful collaborations in film, fashion, and visual art. He is a devoted educator and the first-ever Artist-in-Residence at the Colburn School, which awards several scholarships in his name.

Thibaudet opens the 2024/25 season with Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F at the Colorado Symphony; he later brings the piece to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre national du Capitole de Toulouse, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. He performs another signature piece, Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerto No.5, with the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Pacific, Kansas City, and San Diego Symphonies, Macao Orchestra, and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. A major contemporary exponent of Khachaturian's Piano Concerto, Thibaudet performs the piece with the National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and Tonhalle orchestras.

In Seoul, with the KBS Symphony Orchestra, he returns to Scriabin's *Prometheus: The Poem of Fire*, which he performed last season in a synesthetic presentation with olfactory cues created by Mathilde Laurent of Cartier. He also appears as soloist on Liszt's Piano Concerto No.2, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Münchner Philharmoniker; Leonard Bernstein's Symphony No.2, *Age of Anxiety*, with Shanghai Symphony Orchestra; and Ravel's Piano Concerto in G with the New Jersey Symphony and Palm Beach Symphony orchestras. Other season highlights include world premiere performances of two new works: Benjamin Attahir's double-concerto *Hanoï Songs*, with the Seattle Symphony, and Manu Martin's *Cosmic Rhapsody*, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; and the return of his program with Michael Feinstein, *Two Pianos: Who Could Ask for Anything More?* in Rome and San Francisco.

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In addition to his orchestral dates, Thibaudet takes part in the Itzhak Perlman and Friends tour across California and a tour of Asia with longtime collaborator Gautier Capuçon. While visiting the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he will play chamber music with members of the orchestra. He also continues his multi-season focus on Debussy's *Préludes*, performing both books in their entirety at recitals across the United States; last season saw a reissue of his seminal 1996 recording of the *Préludes* on limited-edition vinyl with design by Vivienne Westwood.

A prolific recording artist, Thibaudet has appeared on more than 70 albums and six film scores; his extensive catalog has received two Grammy nominations, two ECHO Awards, the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik, the Diapason d'Or, the CHOC du Monde de la Musique, the Edison Prize, and *Gramophone* awards. Recent recordings include *Gershwin Rhapsody*, a collection of Gershwin pieces recorded with Michael Feinstein, including four newly-discovered ones; *Night After Night*, a celebration of James Newton Howard's scores for the films of M. Night Shyamalan; and *Carte Blanche*, a collection of deeply personal solo piano pieces never before recorded by the pianist. Other highlights include a 2017 recording of Bernstein's *Age of Anxiety* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Marin Alsop; recordings of the complete solo piano music of Debussy and Satie; Grammy-nominated recordings of Ravel's complete solo piano works and Saint-Saëns's Piano Concerti Nos.2&5; the jazz albums *Reflections on Duke* and *Conversations With Bill Evans*; and *Aria—Opera Without Words*, which features arias transcribed for solo piano by Thibaudet himself.

Thibaudet has also had an impact on the worlds of fashion, film, and philanthropy. He was soloist on Aaron Zigman's score for *Wakefield*; this was the first time the composer had allowed a pianist other than himself to perform his film work. He was also soloist in Dario Marianelli's award-winning scores for the films *Atonement* (which won an Oscar for Best Original Score) and *Pride and Prejudice*, as well as Alexandre Desplat's soundtracks for *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* and Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch*. He had a cameo in Bruce Beresford's film on Alma Mahler, *Bride of the Wind*, and his playing is showcased throughout.

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In 2004 he served as president of the prestigious charity auction at the Hospices de Beaune. His concert wardrobe is designed by Dame Vivienne Westwood.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet was born in Lyon, France, where he began his piano studies at age five and made his first public appearance at age seven. At twelve, he entered the Paris Conservatory to study with Aldo Ciccolini and Lucette Descaves, a friend and collaborator of Ravel. At age fifteen, he won the Premier Prix du Conservatoire and, three years later, the Young Concert Artists Auditions in New York City. Among his numerous commendations is the Victoire d'Honneur, a lifetime career achievement award and the highest honor given by France's Victoires de la Musique. In 2010 the Hollywood Bowl honored Thibaudet for his musical achievements by inducting him into its Hall of Fame. Previously a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Thibaudet was awarded the title Officier by the French Ministry of Culture in 2012. In 2020, he was named Special Representative for the promotion of French Creative and Cultural Industries in Romania. He is a co-artistic advisor with Gautier Capuçon of the Festival Musique & Vin au Clos Vougeot in Burgundy.

Stand: Saison 2024/25