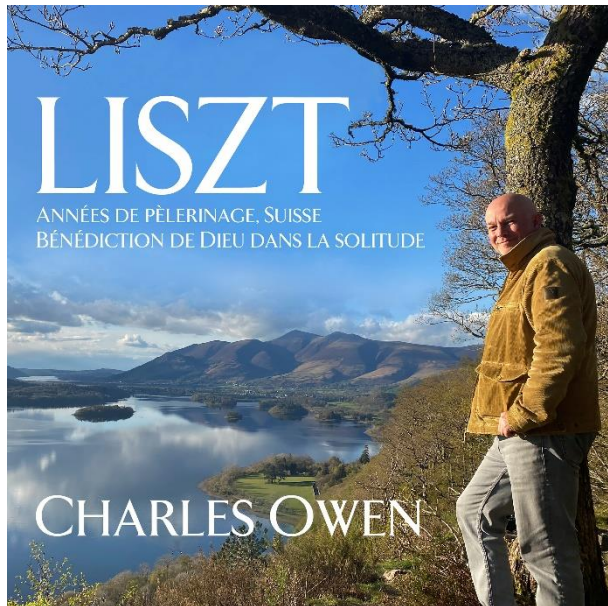


Charles Owen celebrates his 50th birthday with a new solo album, a birthday concert, and the annual London Piano Festival



**15 September | 50th-birthday concert
| Kings Place, London**

**17 September | Liszt album |
AV2476**

**8-10 October | London Piano Festival
| Kings Place, London**

British pianist Charles Owen celebrates his 50th birthday with the release of a new album [17 September] a birthday concert [15 September] and the sixth edition of the London Piano Festival which he co-founded [8-10 October]. The album, due for release on Avie, pairs Liszt's anthology *Années de pèlerinage, Première année: Suisse* with his *Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude*, two works which Charles delved into during the UK's first COVID lockdown in spring 2020.

Charles Owen commented: *'During the first Covid lockdown of spring 2020 I became especially drawn to this music for its evocation of the natural world, its sense of beauty and liberation. Against the background of an unexpected homebound existence the imagery of journeying took on extra meaning in my mind. When almost all planned concerts were cancelled, I (together with countless other musicians) found myself with a blank canvas. Instead of working on planned repertoire (including plenty of Beethoven for his anniversary year) I allowed myself to get drawn into Liszt's cycle. Together with Liszt's sublime "Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude" these pieces became constant, valued companions during some very uncertain days.'*

Charles recorded the album at the Yehudi Menuhin School, where he once studied under Seta Tanyel. The recording was made on the School's new Steinway Model D which Charles selected with the School's Director of Music, Ashley Wass, as part of his role as the Steinway & Sons UK Ambassador. Two tracks from *Années de pèlerinage* will be released in advance of the album release date: *Au lac de Wallenstadt* [20 August] and *Au bord d'une source* [3 September]. The recording follows Charles' critically-acclaimed discography on Avie, featuring music by JS Bach, Brahms, Fauré and Rachmaninov.

To mark his 50th birthday, Charles will perform a recital at Kings Place, London, with special guest Simon Callow. The programme includes works by Debussy, Chopin, Messiaen and Ravel, as well as Liszt's *Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude*, the final track on Charles' new album. Actor Simon Callow will join Charles on stage to read poems by Lamartine, Bertrand and others, all of which directly link to the music performed by Charles.

Charles is Co-Artistic Director of the London Piano Festival alongside Katya Apekisheva, which returns to Kings Place in October [8-10 October 2021] with a line-up including Gabriela Montero, Kathryn Stott and Finghin Collins. As part of the Two-Piano Gala, Charles will join forces with Apekisheva and Collins to perform the UK premiere of Sally Beamish's *Sonnets* [9 October]. The following day Charles will team up with mathematician Marcus du Sautoy for 'Sounding Symmetry – A lecture-recital' which sees Charles perform Bach's *Goldberg Variations* whilst Marcus du Sautoy explains how ideas of symmetry are at work throughout the variations [10 October].

For more information, interview requests or CD requests, please contact Rebecca Johns at Premier Rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com | +44(0)7715 205 196

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

CHARLES OWEN: LISZT

AV2476, 17 September 2021

FRANZ LISZT (1811–1886)

Années de pèlerinage, Première année: Suisse S160

1. *Chapelle de Guillaume Tell*
2. *Au lac de Wallenstadt* – **SINGLE (AV2487 / 20 Aug)**
3. *Pastorale*
4. *Au bord d'une source* – **SINGLE (AV2488 / 3 Sept)**
5. *Orage*
6. *Vallée d'Obermann*
7. *Eglogue*
8. *Le mal du pays (Heimweh)*
9. *Les cloches de Genève – Nocturne*

Harmonies Poétiques Et Religieuses, G.153

10. *No. 3 Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude*

Charles Owen, *piano*

[BOOKLET](#) | [AUDIO](#) | [SALES SHEET](#)

15 SEPTEMBER, CHARLES OWEN 50th-BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Kings Place, London | 19:30pm

DEBUSSY Children's Corner
CHOPIN Barcarolle, Op 60
LISZT Bénédiction de Dieu dans la solitude
MESSIAEN 'Le baiser de l'Enfant Jésus' (from Vingt regards)
RAVEL Gaspard de la nuit

Charles Owen, *piano*

with special guest Simon Callow

<https://www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on/classical/charles-owen-50th-birthday-concert/>

8 – 10 OCTOBER, LONDON PIANO FESTIVAL

Full information here: www.londonpianofestival.com/events

9 OCTOBER, TWO-PIANO GALA [LONDON PIANO FESTIVAL]

Kings Place, London | 7:30pm

[Full programme available here](#)

Katya Apekisheva, Finghin Collins, Gabriela Montero, Charles Owen and Kathryn Stott *piano*

<https://www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on/classical/two-piano-gala/>

10 OCTOBER, SOUNDING SYMMETRY – A LECTURE-RECITAL [LONDON PIANO FESTIVAL]

Kings Place, London | 11am

Bach *Goldberg* Variations, BWV 988

Charles Owen *piano*

Marcus du Sautoy *speaker*

<https://www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on/classical/the-goldberg-variations-with-charles-owen-marcus-du-sautoy/>

CHARLES OWEN



Charles Owen enjoys an extensive international career performing a wide-ranging repertoire to outstanding critical acclaim. He appears at many major UK venues such as Wigmore Hall, Bridgewater Hall, the Sage and Kings Place. Internationally, he has performed at the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York, the Brahms-Saal in Vienna's Musikverein, the Paris Musée d'Orsay, and the Moscow Conservatoire.

His chamber music partners include Julian Rachlin, Chloë Hanslip, Augustin Hadelich and Nicholas Daniel as well as the Vertavo and Takács Quartets.

A regular guest at UK festivals such as Aldeburgh, Bath, Cheltenham, Leicester and Ryedale, he has also performed in Switzerland at the Verbier Festival and in Australia at the Perth Festival and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Townsville. Charles's concerto appearances have included the Philharmonia, Hallé, Aurora and London Philharmonic

orchestras. He has enjoyed collaborations with many leading conductors including Sir Mark Elder, Ryan Wigglesworth, Nicholas Collon and Martyn Brabbins.

Charles's solo recordings comprise discs of piano music by JS Bach, Brahms, Liszt, Janáček, Poulenc and Fauré. Chamber music recordings include the cello sonatas of Rachmaninov and Chopin with Natalie Clein, the Stravinsky Piano Ballets and Rachmaninov Suites with Katya Apekisheva and the world premiere of Jonathan Dove's Piano Quintet with the Sacconi Quartet.

Charles Owen is a Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School, Guest Professor at RWCMD, Co-Artistic Director of London Piano Festival and was appointed Steinway & Sons UK Ambassador in 2016.

Official website: www.charlesowen.net

AVIE Records: www.AVIRecords.com/artists/charles-owen/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/charles.owen.pianist

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