

**Vale of Glamorgan Festival**

19-26 May

[valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk](http://valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk)

New music in the Welsh valleys, featuring four commissions and six world premieres such as two piano trios given by the Marsyas Trio. New York six-piano 'super-group', Grand Band, arrives with two concerts and works with local schools and students.

**Wimbledon International Music Festival**

7-17 June

[www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk)

Yevgeny Sudbin brings Russian glamour to south-west London; Argentine pianist Sergio Tiempo

also finds a home from home in Piazzolla and Ginastera. The Schubert Ensemble plays (what else?) the 'Trout' Quintet, and distinguished visiting quartets include the Diotima, Wihan and Sacconi ensembles.

**AUSTRIA****Grafenegg**

18 August-10 September

[www.grafenegg.com](http://www.grafenegg.com)

Khatia Buniatishvili sprinkles stardust on the 'summer night gala' of 22 June before the festival proper opens with its founder-director, Rudolf Buchbinder, playing

Brahms's D minor Concerto. He is followed in short order by Nikolai Lugansky, Daniil Trifonov, several international orchestras and a funky evening of Gershwin and Ellington with the local Tonkünstler Orchestra Niederösterreich.

**Salzburg Festival**

21 July-30 August

[www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

Daniil Trifonov and Yefim Bronfman both make concerto appearances with the most luxurious of 'house' bands, the Vienna Philharmonic. Martha Argerich, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Grigory Sokolov, Igor Levit and Maurizio Pollini are among the other stars coming out to play.

## And now for something...

...completely different. The Husum Rarities of Piano Music festival tickles the palates of even the most jaded pianophile, says **Peter Quantrill**

Alkan. Thalberg, Moszkowski. Stanchinsky. Are you feeling hungry? Simply listing a few of the composers to be featured in this year's Husum Rarities of Piano Music festival should be enough to get lips licking and mouths watering among the loyal following which will descend on the North Sea harbour town for nine recitals in eight late-summer days (18-26 August), impatient for curiosities and revelations dished up by festival director Peter Froundjian.

A vast library of piano literature is now available at the click of a mouse, to buy and listen to, but there's nothing like the live experience, and this is where, according to Froundjian, promoters and halls have been too slow or too cautious to catch on. 'I feel there's a mission that I should show the public in this special festival the great diversity of piano repertoire,' he says. 'After the Second World War, programmes became more and more narrow, focusing on the classics and modern music. All those works which were more Romantic and virtuosic were excluded. And the architecture of a piano recital should be more diverse than it often is, with only Beethoven sonatas and the same things over and over again.'

Liszt hovers over the festival like a godfatherly spirit. 'He had such wide scope in his ambitions,' remarks Froundjian. 'But we hear such a narrow range of Liszt works in concert – always the Sonata, maybe paraphrases.' He treasures the memory of Zlata Chochieva playing the *Hymne de la Nuit* – a genuine Liszt rarity – in last year's festival, and revivals of the F minor Sonata by York Bowen and the Piano Quintet of Ignaz Friedman.

Such pianist-composers inevitably loom large in this year's programme. In his 15th appearance at the festival, Marc-André Hamelin brings the sonatas of Feinberg, Moszkowski (new to his vast repertoire) and a piece by Alasdair Hinton, which has Froundjian intrigued: 'a very interesting gaze back at the *Vocalise* of Rachmaninov through the eyes of Sorabji.' Antonio Pompa-Baldi plays not only Medtner and Rubinstein but also his own arrangements of Edith Piaf and a sonata by Roberto Piana, *Après une lecture de Liszt*: even Froundjian hasn't heard this before.



There are more transcriptions in Daniel Berman's recital: 'He was known to Earl Wild,' Froundjian explains, 'who left him some manuscripts. *Body and Soul* is his arrangement of the jazz standard, and we're giving the world premiere.' Vincenzo Maltempo will play four hyper-virtuoso Russian sonatas by Stanchinsky, Glazunov, Dmitri Blagoy and Victor Kosenko, including some of the most technically challenging music in the festival. According to the director, 'It's a good counterpart to other programmes which are dominated by smaller pieces such as Nadejda Vlaeva's recital. Even there is a Fantasy by Robert Volkmann which I suggested to her' – between the tantalising prospect of a Rameau Suite from Godowsky and miniatures by Vladigerov, father and son.

The festival closes with an evening-long, out-and-out masterpiece: Jorge Luis Prats playing the complete *Iberia* of Albeniz, which is not encountered in concert in a month of Sundays. 'It is a very knowledgeable audience,' remarks Froundjian, 'but not only that, they are simply lovers of good piano music. They distinguish themselves from other audiences because they are very attentive and concentrated' – as they have to be in the intimate setting, pictured above with the Grau-Schumacher duo. 'More than one pianist has said to me that they have never experienced such a silent public.'

[www.piano-festival-husum.de](http://www.piano-festival-husum.de)

**Schubertiade Schwarz****Hohenems**

4-7 May; 13-16 July; 5-8 Oct (Hohenems); 17-25 June; 25 August-3 September (Schwarzenberg)

[www.schubertiade.at](http://www.schubertiade.at)

The great Lieder singers and Schubert pianists of our age expect to see the likes of Lar David Fray, Till Fellner, Sir Schiff and Marc-André Han

**CANADA****Stratford Summer Music**

17 July-27 August

[stratfordsummermusic.ca](http://stratfordsummermusic.ca)

Canadian and international descend on downtown Ont concerts and outdoor events a range of genres, many of family-focused, but including high-profile piano recitals. Details available online in la

**FRANCE****En Blanc et Noir**

6-11 July

[www.enblancetnoir.com](http://www.enblancetnoir.com)

A week in a medieval French deep in wine country, with 14th-century Place de la H packed out by pianists: who to like? Ivan Ilčić, James Kre Simone Tavoni make return there's a tribute to Scott Jo midnight concert of Cage & Beethoven's Ninth arranged and more.

**Orpheus & Bacchus Piano Festival**

10-16 June, 20-24 Septem

[www.orpheusandbacchus.com](http://www.orpheusandbacchus.com)

In the midsummer edition residential event in the Do Benjamin Frith plays Schu the 'Hammerklavier' Sonat leads the Hummel Ensembl Classical-era concerts of r Hummel and Weber conce once the daytime tastings c Pomerol and St Emilion ar

**Roque D'Antheron**

21 July-19 August

[www.festival-piano.com](http://www.festival-piano.com)

The piano festival to end in a village north of Aix-er Provence: as many as four a day for a month, nearly featuring either one of the great pianists or an exciting talent. Full programme available online in late spring.