

Francesco Piemontesi, a *BBC Music Magazine* award-winning pianist and lauded as a 'wonderful Mozartian', has an intense curiosity about his fellow artists – their pianos, the sonorities they cultivate, the secret elements that animate their playing, and what drives them. In this documentary by Jan Schmidt-Garre, filmed over one year, Piemontesi talks with some of the world's leading performers, including his mentor Alfred Brendel, Maria João Pires, Stephen Kovacevich and Antonio Pappano, in a series of revealing encounters that illuminate their individual approaches to the instrument, its colour and form. The film is complemented by a bonus 60-minute recital by Yulianna Avdeeva, Zlata Chochieva and Francesco Piemontesi, played on Rachmaninoff's Steinway piano at Villa Senar, his home in Switzerland during the 1930s.

The Alchemy of the Piano

A film by Jan Schmidt-Garre
with Francesco Piemontesi

Alfred Brendel Ermonela Jaho Jean-Rodolphe Kars
Stephen Kovacevich Antonio Pappano Maria João Pires

Eldar Nebolsin as Sergei Rachmaninoff

Also featuring
Yulianna Avdeeva Zlata Chochieva Benjamin Heisenberg
Marieke Schroeder Erwin Stürzer

Cinematography	Diethard Prengel
Second Camera	Thomas Keller
Sound Recording	Clémence Fabre, Johannes Kammann
Set Design	Sascha Groß
Sound Mix	Eberhard Weckerle
Animation	Daniel Bäß
Editor	Sarah J. Levine
Producers	Jan Schmidt-Garre, Marieke Schroeder
Commissioning Editor Arte	Monika Lobkowicz
Commissioning Editors BR	Grete Liffers, Theresa März
Commissioning Editors ORF	Adriana Thunhart, Karin Veitl
Producer ORF	Daniel Riegler
Director	Jan Schmidt-Garre

EXTRA FEATURE

At Sergei Vassilyevich's Piano – A tribute to the pianist Sergei V. Rachmaninoff
A recital at Villa Senar with Yulianna Avdeeva, Zlata Chochieva and Francesco Piemontesi

A PARS Media production in co-production with Bayerischer Rundfunk, the Serge Rachmaninoff Foundation and ORF in collaboration with Arte, NRK, RSI, SRF, SVT and Naxos Audiovisual with support from FFF Bayern and the Funk Stiftung



Serge
Rachmaninoff
Foundation



www.naxos.com

Total playing time: Documentary 90 minutes / Bonus 60 minutes • Language: English, German

Subtitles: English, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean

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