

Chopin or 40 roubles? Rachmaninoff and his inspiration

April 21, 2024 - A musical panel with **Moritz Ernst** – Piano
Philip Bullock – Professor in Russian Literature and Music, Oxford Uni-
versity **Andrea Loetscher** – Managing & Artistic Director Serge Rach-
maninoff Foundation

A selection of the following pieces will be performed:

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Prélude c#-minor op. 3/2

Intro Welcome – Setting - Early career – Financial Situation

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

Moments Musicaux op.16, Nos.5&6

Sources of inspiration

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)/Sergei Rachmaninoff:

Preludio from Violin Partita in E

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Variations in c-minor Woo 80

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Mazurka op.68 or Étude op.25/1

Emigration – Performer – Exiles in Paradise

Lilacs

MORITZ ERNST ON RACHMANINOFFS GRAND PIANO

Moritz Ernst was born in 1986. After studies in Detmold, London and Basel he quickly entered a successful, international performing career with some special interests in the music of the 20th century.

He not only performs and records some very contemporary music, but also has an eye on music by ostracized composers, such as Viktor Ullmann or Arthur Lourié. During the recordings of the entire piano works of the latter one, his interest in the music of Rachmaninoff took a steep turn. Both share huge similarities, despite being seemingly so far away in terms of style. Both spent their lives on the run, never being able to return back to their homeland. Rachmaninoff managed, however, to cope with the situation much better - but both suffered from their destiny.

Like hardly anybody else, Rachmaninoff shaped the writing for piano forever. It's a very special treat to not only experience the composers own, legendary piano, but even more so, feel the atmosphere of Rachmaninoffs modernist villa. While maybe the austerity of the architecture seems surprising, given the sometimes exuberant style of Rachmaninoffs compositions, it's no longer surprising when seen in the light of his own performances. For me, Rachmaninoff was a much more futuristic artistic personality than it seems!