

«Chopin or 40 roubles ? Rachmaninoff and his inspiration»

A musical panel with

Moritz Ernst – Piano

Philip Bullock – Professor in Russian Literature and Music,
Oxford University

Andrea Loetscher – Managing & Artistic Director Serge
Rachmaninoff Foundation

A selection of the following pieces will be performed:

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)
Mazurkas op.68
Étude op.25/1

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Prélude c#-minor op. 3/2

Moments Musiceaux op.16, Nos.5&6

Lilacs

MORITZ ERNST AN 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!