

Alain Planès

At the age of eight, pianist Alain Planès gave his first concert with an orchestra in the city of Lyon, where he studied before entering the Paris Conservatory in the class of Jean Doyen and Jacques Février for chamber music. He later went to the United States to further his studies, choosing Indiana University in Bloomington, where he benefited from the teaching of Menahem Pressler, who would become his assistant, as well as György Sebök, Janos Starker, Franco Gulli, and William Primrose. Alongside György Sebök, he performed with Janos Starker, touring with him in the U.S. and Europe. In 1979, Rudolf Serkin invited him for the first time to the Marlboro Festival, where he became one of its rising seniors.

Upon returning to France, Alain Planès became the solo pianist of the Ensemble Intercontemporain at the request of Pierre Boulez. From 1981 onwards, he pursued a career as a soloist and chamber musician, performing at major festivals such as the Aix-en-Provence Festival of Lyric Art, Montreux, La Roque d'Anthéron, La Folle Journée de Nantes, Piano aux Jacobins, Marlboro, and others. In chamber music, he has performed with Alain Meunier, Jean-Jacques Kantorow, Michel Portal, Gérard Caussé, Stéphane Degout, among many others, making him a sought-after collaborator. As a concerto soloist, he has played with prestigious orchestras including the Orchestre de Paris, the Orchestre National de France, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France, the orchestras of the Paris Opera, La Monnaie in Brussels, the SWR Orchestra of Baden-Baden, and Concerto Köln, Les Siècles.

Alain Planès has recorded for Harmonia Mundi, including Schubert's sonatas and a complete collection of Debussy's works for solo piano, as well as albums dedicated to Chopin, Chabrier, Janáček, Haydn, Scarlatti, and Bartók. Many of these recordings have been warmly received by international critics, with awards such as the Choc de l'Année from Classica for Chopin's Nocturnes on a Pleyel piano. A live recording of La Belle Maguelone was recently released by BRecords and has already received a tttt rating from Télérama.



Alain Planès has always had a passion for historical instruments and performs in concert and on recordings using fortepianos from the 18th and 19th centuries, playing works by Scarlatti, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Chopin.

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