

# philharmonia orchestra

## **Boris Giltburg Interview**

### **Boris Gilrburg - Pianist**

What's probably best about the piano repertoire is it's so huge, it's all encompassing and has such rich variety stretching back over 3 centuries. I think some of the greatest works the greatest composers have ever written are for the piano, it's almost endless – you can work your whole life and only scratch the surface of what we have.

The biggest challenge of the pieces you mentioned is that I have had to learn them as I have not played them before.

I also have a large amount of new solo repertoire this season which I will approach on its own terms, not trying to force it or impose something unnatural onto it. The music itself will help me change direction. For example when you play Gershwin, from the first note you are in a different world, in a different mood so you work differently. Besides being incredible music and possessing great depth it, by its nature, allows you more fun, it removes a lot of the limitations that may be more prevalent when playing Mozart or Beethoven.

I'm a heavy classical music fan – late Shostakovich Quartets, that type of thing. I like also opera and baroque music and of course jazz, which I unfortunately cannot play. I also like listening to vocal music very much: there is something very exciting and intimate in listening to the cooperation of a singer and pianist – it's one of the truest forms of chamber music. It's really a symbiosis of the two: it really is making music together.

### **Interviewer**

"If you could curate a season of music here at the RFH, what kind of thing would you put on? Let's say you have a week."

### **Boris Giltburg**

It's a tough question, there's so much that I like.

One major work would be Mass in Minor by Bach, or Britten's War Requiem. Perhaps a Shostakovich Symphony, not 5 or 7, but one listened to less frequently. Perhaps I'd put on a concert of Russian greats because they are not often done and I think they are incredible.

I'd probably play Bartok 3. It's one of my favourite concertos and I don't often get the chance to play it. It's one of the best piano concertos in the entire piano repertoire.