

Lachenmann Music

Matthieu Idmtal, Piano

Matthieu Idmtal has long since established himself as a leading figure on both national and international stages. Critics and audiences alike regard him as an artist with an unmistakable musical style, whose highly sensitive interpretations touch the listener in a special way and leave a lasting impression. His piano playing is characterised by an exceptional tonal quality, technical mastery and a subtle nuance of expression, which lend his playing a special depth and radiance. Not least, his deeply felt engagement with the works of Alexander Scriabin has earned him a reputation in recent years as a distinguished interpreter of this repertoire.

As a prize-winner at more than 15 international competitions, Matthieu Idmtal has appeared on Belgium's most prestigious stages, including Bozar, Flagey, De Bijloke, De Singel, Concertgebouw Brugge, Philharmonie de Liège and the Handelsbeurs. He has also performed at international festivals such as the Klara Festival, Festival Musiq'3, Les Sommets du Classique (Switzerland), Palermo Classica (Italy), Musicales und Côte Chalonnaise (France), Les Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad (Switzerland), Festival Musical d'Arcangues (France), Festival Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen (Netherlands), Festival en Poitou (France) and the Festivals de Wallonie.

The young pianist now has four CD recordings to his name: the complete sonatas for violin and piano by Edvard Grieg, together with the violinist Maya Levy (2017), Alexander Scriabin's 12 Études, Op. 8, and 24 Préludes, Op. 11 (2018), and Edvard Grieg's Piano Sonata, Op. 7, and 14 Lyric Pieces (2021), released on the Piano Classics label. Added to these are original works for piano four hands by Johann Strauss, recorded together with the pianist Alessandro Deljavan.

These recordings quickly received great critical acclaim, with reviews such as: "This is undoubtedly one of the best Scriabin CDs of the last decade" (De Muze) or: "He combines tonal beauty with expression in a sublime manner. His playing captivates with a varied and colourful touch, supple phrasing, a natural rubato, precisely crafted dynamics and an infectious imagination. Idmtal is a poet at the piano." (Stretto magazine). All his CDs have been awarded the 'Choice of Klara' distinction by the national radio station Radio Klara and rated five stars by the renowned music magazine Classica. A new recording of piano sonatas by Joseph Haydn has been announced for 2026.

His recording dedicated exclusively to Alexander Scriabin has been particularly highly praised, and in recent years Matthieu Idmtal has established himself as one of the leading interpreters and advocates of Scriabin's music. He has repeatedly given recitals devoted entirely to the Russian composer and has performed on several occasions for the European Scriabin Society.

In recent seasons, Matthieu Idmtal has given solo recitals and concerts with orchestras in Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the UK, Switzerland, Lithuania, Morocco and Spain. Alongside his solo career, he is passionately dedicated to chamber music and has received numerous awards – both in a piano duo with Anastasia Kozhushko and in a duo with the violinist Maya Levy. These awards include top prizes at competitions such as 'Youth 'n Classic' (Belgium) and the 'Concorso Internazionale San Cristoforo' (Italy), as well as the Press and Audience Prize at the 'International Chamber Music Competition Almere' (Netherlands).

In 2017, Matthieu Idmtal was awarded the "Supernova" Prize, which is presented by Belgian music critics and programme directors in collaboration with the leading national classical radio stations Radio Klara and Musiq'3, and includes a concert tour throughout Belgium. He has already shared the stage with artists such as Bomsori Kim, Pierre-Alain Volondat, Eva Zavaro, Jef Neve, Elsa de Lacerda, Alessandro Deljavan, Marley Erickson and Dirk Brossé.

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Matthieu Idmtal's repertoire ranges from Baroque to contemporary music, though his particular interest has always been in the (post-)Romantic era – he feels a special affinity for composers such as Robert Schumann, Edvard Grieg, Alexander Scriabin and Frédéric Chopin. His close connection to Chopin led to the founding of the 'Brussels Chopin Days', an international concert series of which he has been the artistic director since 2013. Furthermore, he is committed to the performance of lesser-known works and takes an interest in jazz music. Over the years, he has developed an increasingly keen interest in composition and has already created several works of his own, in which his artistic personality is also creatively reflected.

Thanks to his extensive experience, Matthieu Idmtal is regularly invited to give masterclasses and serves as a jury member at national and international music competitions.

Matthieu Idmtal feels great gratitude towards his teachers Frima Nakhimovitch, Maria Andreeva and Vitaly Samoshko, and is grateful for every inspiring and formative musical encounter that has made him the musician he is today.