

Chapter 1 : Famous Male Pianists | List of Top Male Pianists

The book gives a wonderful overview of the great pianists of the past - I count over named, of whom many also composed some lovely work. Also gives an insight into rivalries and the way that the 'business' of music was handled in previous times.

The 25 best piano players of all time 17 April , She is now arguably the greatest living pianist and can sell out concerts in minutes. The legendary conductor Colin Davis said of Arrau: He ennobles that music in a way no one else in the world can. Having been born in Russia he now holds both Icelandic and Swiss citizenship and is still performing as a pianist and conductor around the world. We recently asked the great pianist and now conductor! But he has also produced some of the best recordings ever made and is assured a place in the history books. We may not have any recordings of Beethoven performing, but we have the virtuosic and inventive music he wrote for the piano and accounts from people who heard him play. The man who is now better known as a composer was much admired for his use of legato and the singing tone he was able to produce. He can turn his hand to music from any period but is particularly respected for his interpretations of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and Liszt. The vast majority of his work was for solo piano and though there are no recordings of him playing the earliest sound recordings are from the s , one contemporary said: In truth, nothing equals the lightness, the sweetness with which the composer preludes on the piano; moreover nothing may be compared to his works full of originality, distinction and grace. The Canadian pianist is best-known for his performances of the music of J. Bach, and particularly The Goldberg Variations. Myra Hess Dame Myra Hess, as she eventually became, is famous not so much for winning a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music at the age of 12, nor of performing with the legendary conductor Sir Thomas Beecham when she was 17 " but for the series of concerts she gave at the National Gallery during WWII. Hess had the idea of using the Gallery to host lunchtime concerts. The series ran for six and a half years and Hess herself performed in of them. He made his debut in in a solo recital in Kharkiv. He is best known for his performances of Romantic works including music by Chopin, Rachmaninov and Schumann. Stephen Hough British pianist Stephen Hough is a consummate soloist and chamber musician, as comfortable playing the showcase-Romantic concertos as a piano quintet or a miniature by Massenet or Ravel. Oh and did we mention he also composes and paints? A true Renaissance man. Lang Lang Lang Lang changed the classical music world forever with his inimitable panache both on and off stage. Franz Liszt Vying with Chopin for the crown of greatest 19th-century-virtuoso was Franz Liszt, the Hungarian composer, teacher and pianist. And as a performer his fame was legendary " there was even a word coined for the frenzy he inspired: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Again, this is not a pianist anyone alive today has had the privilege to hear, but by all accounts " and judging by the piano music he wrote " he could give anyone in this list a run for their money. Just listen to his Piano Concerto No. He could play almost anything from sight and famously had an astonishing memory for music. In he jointly won the International Tchaikovsky Competition with Vladimir Ashkenazy and recorded a huge amount of music by Rachmaninov. In a bone abnormality caused his hand to swell and forced him to take some time off from performing. It was during this time that he found solace in the music of J. His Bach recordings are regarded as some of the best ever made. Sergei Rachmaninov Famously, Rachmaninov could comfortably stretch a 13th on the piano five more notes than an octave and even a cursory glance at the Etudes and Concertos he wrote makes a convincing case for that fact being true. Happily, recordings survive of this brilliant pianist in action. Arthur Rubinstein said of Rachmaninov: Arthur Rubinstein This Polish American pianist is often quoted as the best Chopin performer of all time. He was found to have perfect pitch at the age of two and he made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic when he was just He was taught by a pianist called Karl Heinrich Barth, who had been a pupil of Liszt, meaning that Rubinstein was part of a formidable pianistic tradition. Clara Schumann One of the few female pianists to compete in the largely male world of 19th-century music, Clara was a superstar of her day. Her talents far outshone those of her composer husband Robert. She wrote her own music as well " you can hear an example in the video below. One critic of the time said: And Horowitz was indisputably one of the greats"

Mitsuko Uchida The Japanese-British pianist Mitsuko Uchida was recently made a Dame “ demonstrating her vital importance to the music world. She studied in Vienna and gave her first recital in the town when she was just

Chapter 2 : Famous Pianists of to Day and Yesterday

Excerpt from Famous Pianists of to Day and Yesterday IN Famous Pianists the writer has endeavoured to follow the same general plan as in his two previous books of this series.

Ludwig van Beethoven Germany, The great composer first became well-known as a piano virtuoso in his day, with a powerful and direct playing style. Frederic Chopin Poland, Chopin played with a soft, elastic delicateness. His playing style was very similar to his reserved, polite nature. Listeners said that he had the ability to create inky and subtle colors, and was more like a profound poet than a keyboard acrobat. Franz Liszt Hungary, One of the most famous piano players of all time! He had piano superpowers, and used to dazzle audiences with his extraordinary abilities. He was well-known and mocked! He was the first person to hold solo piano recitals, and the first to sit sideways to the audience so everyone could see his hands in action. Anton Rubinstein Russia, A powerful pianistic force of nature. He used to give his audience headaches! Still, he had a wonderfully poetic and noble way of playing. Apparently he used to make loads of mistakes when he played, since he was focusing on expressing his personal idea of the music. Hans von Bulow Germany, Von Bulow had an incredible memory - he once learned an entire piece by reading the score on a train journey, then performed it the same evening at a concert! Sergei Rachmaninoff Russia, Known as a famous piano player before a composer. His hands were ridiculously large, which allowed him to make huge stretches across the keyboard and play widely-spaced bell-like chords. His playing style was extremely clean and precise, with a golden, lyrical tone. Josef Hofmann Poland, A supreme virtuoso with a calm and neat playing style. He added all sorts of inventive modifications to his piano to get the effects he wanted. For instance, some of his pianos had narrower keys than normal for his small hands. Arthur Rubinstein Poland, A charming old world personality combined with a well-traveled, well-read intellectual, and of course a master pianist. Claudio Arrau Chile, Arrau had a very rich, heavy tone, and an ability to bring out moving emotions from simple melodies. I really like his "Romantic" style of playing. A hero in his native country, he even has a wide avenue named after him in Santiago, Chile. He was also able to play astonishingly quickly and with astonishing dynamic range. Sviatoslav Richter Russia, Richter seemed to be a superhuman player. Immensely talented, he would perform pieces exactly the way composers had written them, with ferocious speed and precision. He even criticized the liberal interpretations of other players. I once heard an anecdote in which Richter turned up to a performance where the windows had been broken in by a fierce blizzard outside. The great pianist calmly sat at the piano and played perfectly, while icy winds blew all around the room. But somehow Richter did it Jorge Bolet Cuba, He had an ability to inject an infinite variety of images and feelings into his interpretations, and was especially skilled in the Romantic repertoire. Dinu Lipatti Romania, Lipatti was an astonishingly talented virtuoso, who tragically died at the age of 33 from cancer. He left a small handful of recordings about 5 CDs, with deeply inspiring interpretations of Chopin. Perhaps one of the most naturally gifted pianists ever to have lived. Georges Cziffra Hungary, He performed in circuses, was a tank commander in WW2, and suffered injustice in a labor camp for several years. He was noted for his lightning-fast interpretations of virtuoso showpieces and his improvisation skills. Alfred Brendel Austria, Brendel is an intellectual, known for his thoughtful and intelligent performances. He was self-taught and his career took off very slowly, but nowadays he commands huge respect in the musical world. Martha Argerich Argentina, Argerich has confident, stormy playing style, and above all a savage speed. But this is complemented by her wonderfully delicate touch and glowing tone. Maurizio Pollini Italy, A virtuoso of the highest order, Pollini plays with a shining, energetic, and perfect technique. His massive repertoire covers several hundred years of piano music, right up to modern composers. They also add their personal artistry, creating a unique interpretation. Here are my top three favorite famous piano players, with a video to demonstrate what I like about them: Hunting Song, from The Seasons. I find the warmth and emotion in this performance exceptional: If you like my site, please click "Like"

Chapter 3 : Yesterday - Piano Is Easy

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Chapter 5 : The Woodshed | Jazz Improvisation Â» 50 of Todayâ€™s Best Jazz Pianists

Excerpt. IN Famous Pianists the writer has endeavoured to follow the same general plan as in his two previous books of this series. In the limited space at command, it is impossible to give a complete record of the best pianoforte players, therefore those only have been selected Who have made a reputation as travelling virtuosi.

Chapter 6 : Famous Pianists of To-day and Yesterday (Henry C. Lahee)

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