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CELEBRATING
**RALPH VAN
RAAT**

'Van Raat is quite exceptional, a much sought out recitalist and soloist,
a highly regarded musicologist and a respected teacher.'

– Lewis M. Smoley, *Classical Source*

BIOGRAPHY

'Ralph van Raat's playing combines powerful projection with a neo-Romantic sensibility, focusing on important details while rarely losing sight of the music's dynamic swell and sweep.' – *Gramophone*



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Ralph van Raat has been completely fascinated by contemporary classical music since the age of 14. Although his repertoire ranges from Bach up to and far beyond Boulez, his primary focus has always been on composers dating from Debussy, Bartók and Ives to present day international masters. His passion is to convince audiences of the immense beauty and diversity in the music of our own time through solo recitals, lecture-recitals, concerto performances, recordings, media appearances and special, cross-media projects.

Van Raat helps audiences identify with modern day composers by adhering to a classical approach: he firmly believes that a strong sense of *classical* structure as well as a refinement of tone is essential in conveying the logic and poetry of any music, certainly including his repertoire of choice.

Ralph van Raat regularly appears as a recitalist around the world, in Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Asia as well as in the US. His concerts are regularly broadcast by radio and television networks. He has been engaged for his own radio series on contemporary classical music by Dutch national broadcasting and has been honored with his own concert series in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, among others. Recent highlights include his débuts at New York's Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonie in Paris, both with sold out halls, standing ovations and rave reviews.

Van Raat has often performed as a soloist with orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Radio Symphony Orchestra of Frankfurt, the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, the Dortmunder Philharmoniker, the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra and the China National Symphony Orchestra. Van Raat was Artist-in-Residence of The Netherlands Symphony Orchestra in 2010. He has worked closely with conductors including Valery Gergiev, JoAnn Falletta, Susanna Mälkki, David Robertson, Peter Eötvös, Stefan Asbury, Ludovic Morlot, Tõnu Kaljuste, Jeffrey Milarsky, Thierry Fischer and Otto Tausk.

He has performed as a soloist at important festivals such as at the symphonic openings concert of the Gergiev Festival, the BBC Proms, the Pierre Boulez Biennale in Paris, the Hong Kong Arts Festival (as part of the prestigious Credit Suisse Emerging Artist Series), the Festival International de Musique de Besançon, the Holland Festival, the Time of Music festival in Viitasaari, Finland, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in the UK, the Berliner Festspiele and the Tanglewood Summer Festival in the US.

Ralph van Raat has had an exclusive contract with Naxos since December 2006. In 2009, an Artist Portrait 5-disc boxed set (8.505040) was released with van Raat's complete Naxos recordings to date. His most recent Naxos release is a treasure trove of unknown French repertoire and includes world premiere recordings of early works by Pierre Boulez, exclusively performed by van Raat.

Many composers worldwide, including David Lang, Gavin Bryars, Jacob ter Veldhuis, Frederic Rzewski, Louis Andriessen, Karen Tanaka and Vladimir Martynov have dedicated piano compositions and concertos to van Raat. He has collaborated directly with many composers on the interpretation of their piano works, for example, with John Adams, Arvo Pärt, Tan Dun, Jonathan Harvey, Helmut Lachenmann, György Kurtág, Magnus Lindberg, and Sir John Tavener.

Van Raat teaches 20th- and 21st-century piano interpretation at the Conservatory of Amsterdam. He regularly gives master classes, lectures and workshops and has done so at the conservatories of Tirana, Nizhny Novgorod, Kiev, Sofia, the Ligeti Academy of the ASKO/Schönberg Ensemble, etc. as well as for many other universities and institutes. He is a regular jury member at competitions, such as the Orléans Concours International.

Van Raat was named a Steinway Artist in 2003, joining an exclusive circle of renowned artists. He records exclusively on Steinway. Recent cross media productions have featured accompaniment to silent film, an audio-visual exposé on climate change and a performance while flying a simulation in real time (van Raat is a licensed pilot).

Pianist and musicologist van Raat studied at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and the University of Amsterdam. He graduated Cum Laude from both. As a participant of the Advanced Program of the Conservatory of Amsterdam and funded by the Dutch cultural trust 'Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund', van Raat rounded out his studies with Claude Helffer in Paris, Ursula Oppens in Chicago, with Liisa Pohjola in Finland and with Pierre-Laurent Aimard in Cologne.

In addition to winning First Prize at the International Gaudeamus Interpreters Competition in 1999, van Raat has won a large number of prizes and awards, including an international Borletti-Buitoni Fellowship, the Philip Morris Arts Award, the Stipend-Prize during the 'Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik' in Darmstadt, the Second Prize as well as the Donemus-Prize (for Contemporary Music) of the Princess Christina Competition, the Elisabeth Everts Prize, the VSCD Classical Music Prize, the Fortis MeesPierson Award of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Prijs Klassiek (Classics Prize) of the Dutch public broadcaster, NTR and the VSCD Ovation Prize 2019.

For updates, visit www.ralphvanraat.com

DISCOGRAPHY

'Ralph van Raat immediately exhibited the fact that he is in total harmony with the universe *Boulézien...* with a mastery and a particularly communicative empathy.'

– Bruno Serrou, *Classique d'aujourd'hui*

NEW RELEASES

MAY 2020



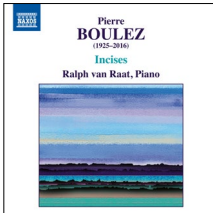
French Piano Rarities
BOULEZ • DEBUSSY • MESSIAEN • RAVEL
Ralph van Raat, Piano

INCLUDES WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

8.573894

French Piano Rarities Boulez • Debussy • Messiaen • Ravel

This album of French piano rarities features seldom-heard and recently discovered works by composers who had an influence on Pierre Boulez, as well as the premiere recording of Boulez's *Prélude, Toccata et Scherzo*. This large-scale early work looks back on virtuosic Romantic music, while at the same time exploring the new compositional styles that Boulez would subsequently embrace. Among the rarities is a posthumously discovered piano study by Debussy, a reconstructed birdsong work by Messiaen, and a tiny masterpiece by Ravel found in a notebook.



Pierre BOULEZ (1925–2016)
Incises
Ralph van Raat, Piano

9.70294

BONUS (DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE) Pierre BOULEZ (1925–2016) Incises

* Only available for streaming and download

This digital single complements Naxos 8.573894, an album of French piano rarities also performed by Ralph van Raat.

SELECTION OF HIGHLY ACCLAIMED RECORDINGS



LINDBERG
Complete Piano Music
Klavierstück • Play I • Jubilees
Ralph van Raat

8.570542

'Ralph van Raat is admirably attuned to the music's intricate voicing and weighting, helped by a recording that gives the pianist the right amount of presence and space.'
– Gramophone




AMERICAN CLASSICS
Frederic RZEWSKI
Four Pieces
Hard Cuts • The Housewife's Lament
Ralph van Raat, Piano
Lanark • Arnold Marinissen

8.559759

'This is an important release ... Rzewski is himself a brilliant pianist, and he should be pleased with the efforts of Mr van Raat.'
– American Record Guide




Hans OTTE
Das Buch der Klänge
(The Book of Sounds)
Ralph van Raat, Piano

8.572444

'The thoughtful musicianship and commitment he brings to *Das Buch der Klänge* cannot be questioned. Van Raat's caring advocacy spills over into his superb and informative booklet notes.'
– ClassicsToday.com




AMERICAN CLASSICS
Frederic RZEWSKI
The People United Will Never Be Defeated!
Winnboro Cotton Mill Blues
Ralph van Raat, Piano

8.559360

'Van Raat's ability to divine each variation's specific character by way of tempo...and his keen ear for harmonic tension and release bear much similarity to Rzewski's pianism.'
– Gramophone




PÄRT
Piano Music
Zwei Sonaten für Klavier, Op. 1 • Partita, Op. 2 • Lamentate
Ralph van Raat, Piano
Netherlands Radio Chamber Philharmonic • JoAnn Fallotta

8.572525

'This is a well-conceived crash-course in significant moments in the development of Pärt's music. ...Ralph van Raat plays with both sensitivity and verve.'
– BBC Music Magazine ★★★★★



STRAVINSKY
The Rite of Spring
arr. for solo piano by Vladimir Leyetchikis
DEBUSSY
La Mer
arr. for solo piano by Lucien Garban
Ralph van Raat

8.573576

'Van Raat's virtuosity and physical endurance carry him through his gripping performances, and these solo piano transcriptions of both *Le Sacre du printemps* and *La Mer* are as convincing as the two-piano versions.'
– AllMusic.com



For the full list of Ralph van Raat's discography on Naxos, please visit www.naxos.com/person/Ralph_van_Raat/38899.htm

