

A black and white photograph of pianist Ralph van Raat. He is seated at a piano, leaning forward with his right hand resting on the keys. He is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored button-down shirt. He has a slight smile and is looking off-camera to the left. The background is dark, making the subject stand out.

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*

Pianist and musicologist Ralph van Raat (1978) appears as a recitalist in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and the United States. Augmenting traditional repertoire, he takes special interest in the performance of contemporary classical music. He has worked closely with many composers on the interpretation of their piano works, with John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Tan Dun, György Kurtág, Magnus Lindberg, Arvo Pärt, Frederic Rzewski and Sir John Tavener. Many composers have dedicated their piano compositions to van Raat.

Ralph van Raat performs regularly as a soloist with orchestras including London Sinfonietta, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Shanghai Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra and the Dortmunder Philharmoniker. He has worked closely with conductors including Tan Dun, JoAnn Falletta, David Robertson, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Susanna Mälkki, Stefan Asbury and John Adams.

He has performed as a soloist at important festivals including the Gergiev Festival, the BBC Proms, the Festival International de Musique de Besançon, Holland Festival, the Time of Music festival in Viitasaari, Finland, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in the UK, the Berliner Festspiele, the Hong Kong Festival of the Arts and Tanglewood

Summer Festival in the United States. He has been given his own concert series at both the Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw of Amsterdam, and Rotterdam's De Doelen.

In 2018, van Raat performed his début at both New York's Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonie in Paris, both to sold out halls, standing ovations and rave reviews.

Since 2006, van Raat has had an exclusive contract with Naxos. His first recording for Naxos (the complete piano works by John Adams) received top ratings in several magazines. Van Raat's recording of Arvo Pärt's piano repertoire received a 5-star rating in *BBC Music Magazine*. Naxos honoured him in 2009 with an Artist's Box and in 2017 with an Artist's Profile.

Ralph van Raat graduated with honors from both the Conservatory and the University of Amsterdam (musicology). He teaches contemporary piano interpretation at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and the Accademia di Musica Pinerolo (Turin). He also regularly gives masterclasses and lectures at several European conservatories and for many foundations and universities. Van Raat is a Jury member of the Orléans Concours International.

August 2021

Ralph van Raat is a Steinway Artist  
[www.ralphvanraat.com](http://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 RELEASE



JUN 2022

Tan DUN: Eight Memories in Watercolor • C-A-G-E- (In Memory of John Cage)  
Film Music Sonata • Traces • The Fire • Blue Orchid

Tan Dun's originality has been reflected in worldwide recognition of his music, which draws on both Chinese and Western musical languages. The *Eight Memories in Watercolor* are deft painterly reflections, while in *Traces* he balances sound with silence in this evocation of nature. The vibrant drama of *Blue Orchid* incorporates the opening motif of Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*. In *Film Music Sonata*, which here receives its first recording on general release, Tan Dun draws on his score for the film *The Banquet*. The kaleidoscopic *C-A-G-E-*, strikingly Chinese in sound, is a tribute to his teacher and spiritual compass, John Cage. *The Fire*, written for Ralph van Raat, contains some of Tan Dun's most virtuosic and dramatic piano writing.

INCLUDES  
WORLD PREMIERE  
RECORDINGS

## SELECTION OF HIGHLY ACCLAIMED RECORDINGS



'Ralph van Raat captures the energy and frequent sensuality of Adams' piano music, while never flinching at the technical demands. Top track: *Hallelujah Junction*, from 1996, captures the full breadth of the composer's style and magnetism.' – *Toronto Star*



'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* ★★★★★



'Throughout this programme, Ralph van Raat is exemplary in his technical and stylistic mastery, and his adaptability to the styles of these composers is commendable.' – *Crescendo*

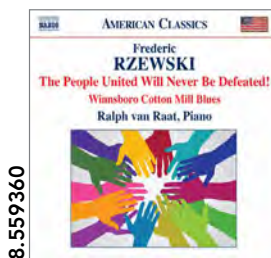


'This is an important release ... Rzewski is himself a brilliant pianist, and he should be pleased with the efforts of Mr van Raat.'

– *American Record Guide*



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



'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*



'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*



'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](http://www.naxos.com/person/Ralph_van_Raat/38899.htm)



# UPCOMING CONCERTS

**'I enjoy van Raat on recording but given the choice to hear him again live, I would run, not walk.'**  
– C.B. Carey, *Musical America*

Highlights in Ralph van Raat's future engagements include a world premieres of works by Janco Verduin and Robin de Raaff written for the artist, a return at the KLARA Festival in Brussels, and a memorial concert for Louis Andriessen and Frederic Rzewski.

DATE	VENUE / CITY	PROGRAMME
23 Apr 2022	Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, NL	Janco Verduin: MASS (world premiere)  Other artist/s: Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra Karina Canellakis (conductor)
30 Apr 2022 21 May 2022	De Vereeniging Concertzaal, Nijmegen, NL De Goede Rede, Almere, NL	Keith Jarrett: The Köln Concert
11 May 2022	TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht, NL	Koechlin: Les heures persanes  Other artist/s: Kader Abdolah (narrator)
10 Jun 2022	Amsterdam, NL	Holland Festival – Robin de Raaff: Piano Concerto No. 2 'Circulus' (world premiere)  Other artist/s: Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra Matthias Pintscher (conductor)
21 Jun 2022	Henry Le Boeuf Hall, Brussels, BE	KLARA Festival – John Adams: Century Rolls  Other artist/s: Belgian National Orchestra Hugh Wolff (conductor)
1 Jul 2022	TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht, NL	Memorial concert for Louis Andriessen and Frederic Rzewski  Other artist/s: Daan Vandewalle (piano)

*Schedule subject to change without prior notice*

## CONTACT

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