



BEN SCHOEMAN

CONCERT PIANIST | EDUCATOR | STORYTELLER

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1. BIOGRAPHY

Short bio

Ben Schoeman (DMA, London) is a London-based Steinway Artist, celebrated pianist, and educator whose performances combine virtuosity with compelling storytelling. A winner of major international competitions, including the UNISA International Piano Competition and Royal Over-Seas League Gold Medal, he has performed at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, and the Konzerthaus Berlin. With an extensive repertoire spanning solo, chamber, and concerto works by composers from across the world, he is also dedicated to mentoring students through his Piano Academy in London.

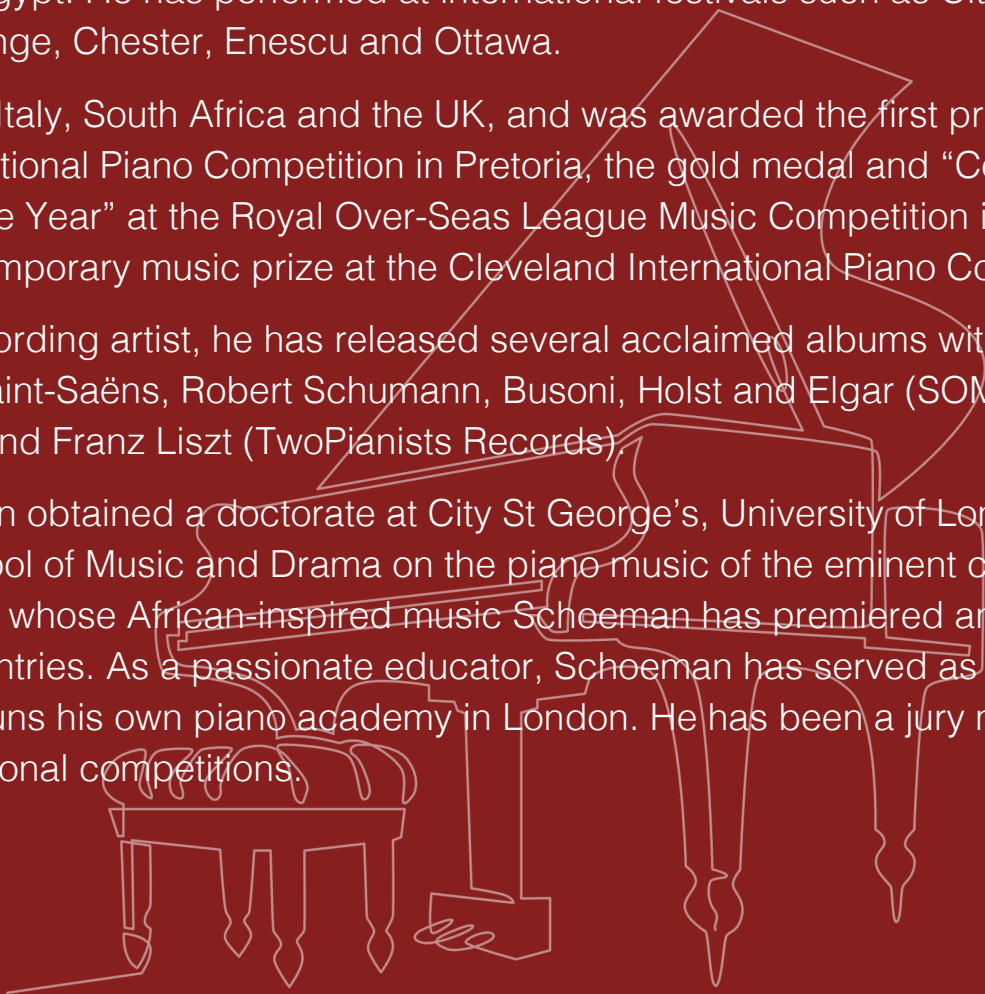
Medium bio

Steinway Artist, pianist Ben Schoeman has been described in Gramophone Magazine as “an outstanding musician” and his recordings have been praised in International Piano Magazine as “organic, gritty, profound, elaborate, joyous, heroic and exultant”. During the past seasons, he has given solo, chamber music and concerto performances in concert halls over the world, including the Wigmore, Barbican, and Queen Elizabeth Halls in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Gulbenkian Auditorium in Lisbon, the Fondazione Cariplo Auditorium in Milan, the Cape Town City Hall, the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest and in front of the pyramids in Egypt. He has performed at international festivals such as City of London, Edinburgh Fringe, Chester, Enescu and Ottawa.

He studied in Italy, South Africa and the UK, and was awarded the first prize in the 11th UNISA International Piano Competition in Pretoria, the gold medal and “Commonwealth Musician of the Year” at the Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition in London, and the contemporary music prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition.

As a keen recording artist, he has released several acclaimed albums with music by Beethoven, Saint-Saëns, Robert Schumann, Busoni, Holst and Elgar (SOMM Recordings) and Franz Liszt (TwoPianists Records).

Ben Schoeman obtained a doctorate at City St George’s, University of London and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on the piano music of the eminent composer Stefans Grové whose African-inspired music Schoeman has premiered and performed in several countries. As a passionate educator, Schoeman has served as a senior lecturer and runs his own piano academy in London. He has been a jury member at major international competitions.



2. PHOTOS



3. REPERTOIRE & PROJECTS

Repertoire

- Extensive and versatile: Encompasses solo, chamber, and concerto works.
- Range: From Bach, Beethoven, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff to Debussy, Fauré, and Schumann, as well as South African composers, Eastern European voices, and contemporary works.
- Concerto repertoire: Includes over 40 works performed internationally with leading orchestras.
- Chamber music: Notably, complete Beethoven symphonies in Scharwenka's transcriptions (with Tessa Uys).

[Click here to access the full repertoire list.](#)

Lecture-recitals & educational offerings

In addition to his extensive repertoire, Ben Schoeman designs thematic recital programmes that highlight his unique strengths as both performer and scholar. Each programme explores music in dialogue with history, philosophy, visual art, literature, and ethnomusicology, offering audiences intellectually rich and emotionally engaging experiences. His recital themes reflect his dual commitment to artistry and education, bridging performance with storytelling to create a deeper connection between the piano and its cultural contexts.

Alongside his international performing career, Ben Schoeman is deeply committed to music education through his Piano Academy in London, where he welcomes all students from intermediate through advanced levels. The Academy provides one-on-one lessons in person and online, offering expert guidance in piano performance, interpretation, and technique, as well as thorough preparation for theory and graded examinations (ABRSM, Trinity, UNISA, and other boards). Several of his students have won prizes at national and international competitions.

With his background of many years as a senior lecturer in piano and musicology, Ben combines academic and artistic insights, creating a supportive environment where students not only refine their technical skills but also develop as expressive and imaginative musicians.

4. PRESS QUOTES & REVIEWS

The Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No.5 in F, Op.103 (Egyptian) demands much from the pianist in terms of brilliance, sensitivity and sheer technique. In every particular, Schoeman proved himself fully up to his considerable task, as one might expect from a Royal Over-Seas Gold Medal Winner”

~ *Robert Matthew-Walker, Classical Source, London*

“Schoeman beautiful tonal sound was an experience and the way in which he completed Brahms’s [Concerto no. 2] long lines of double melodies that lie octaves apart, showed enormous musical insight and pianistic command”

~ *Pieter Kooij, Die Burger, Cape Town*

“Ben Schoeman gets through the [Liszt] sonata in slightly less time and, aided by a deeply resonant Bösendorfer, gives greater weight to the contrasts between its sections. Although he takes the fugal section at a more deliberate pace, it builds effectively ... Schoeman also includes three selections from the Années de Pèlerinage—one of them is the ‘Dante Sonata’, given a powerful presentation with much of the Lisztian rhetoric placed in proper perspective ... The other two pieces are given in spectacular lyrical and colorful splashes of sound that captivate and thrill.”

~ *Alan Becker, American Record Review*

“Dramatic in concept, full in tone, his playing virtuosic ... elegantly cheerful playing full of character and contrast and festooned with pearly passagework”

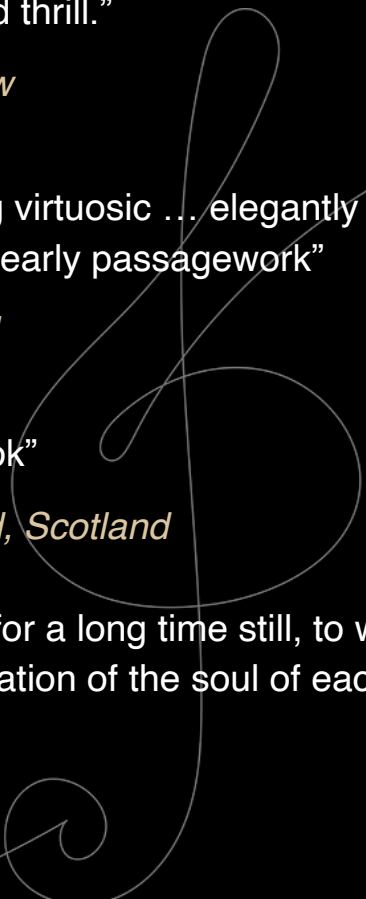
~ *Daniel Hathaway, Cleveland Classical*

“Some of the most exquisite Bach in the book”

~ *Michael Tumelty, The Glasgow Herald, Scotland*

“One will reminisce about this performance for a long time still, to which Schoeman gave gravitas with integrity and a thorough exploration of the soul of each work”

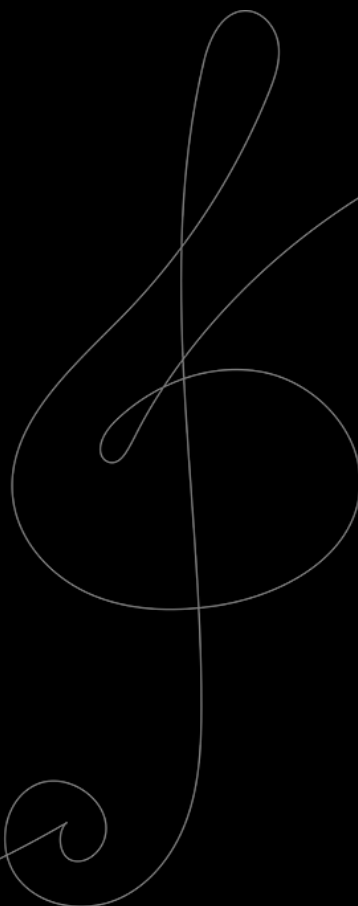
~ *Elretha Britz, Netwerk24, South Africa*



5. MAIN PRIZES & AWARDS

Selected Prizes and Awards:

- 1st Grand Prize: 11th UNISA International Piano Competition, Pretoria
- 1st Prize and Gold Medal: Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition (alongside Lorna Viol Prize and Liszt Society Prize)
- The Huberte Rupert Prize for Classical Music, the South African Academy of Art and Science (Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns)
- Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music
- Contemporary Music Prize: Cleveland International Piano Competition, United States of America
- Soroptimist Prize: Scottish International Piano Competition, Glasgow, UK
- Alexis Gregory Prize: Vêndome International Piano Competition, Lisbon, Portugal
- Special awards – Leeds and Tbilisi International Piano Competitions



6. AUDIO & VIDEO

Audio samples

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/5vHul1yDMhaKEpizceifwH>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/bjschoeman>

Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/@BenSchoeman595>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/artist/ben-schoeman/439397065>

Video performances

Joseph Haydn: Sonata in C major Hob XVI: 50, Cleveland Museum of Art, USA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4yp8cvSUF8&list=RDy4yp8cvSUF8&start_radio=1

Domenico Scarlatti: Sonata in F major, K. 107 (played on Rachmaninoff's London Steinway)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rchseDNPTnI>

Camille Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto no. 5 with the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Daniel Boico, SABC Concert Hall

<https://youtu.be/mnqbpEgQJhY>

Surendran Reddy: Toccata for John Roos (2007), Cleveland Museum of Art, USA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7fWUPEPaxo&list=RDE7fWUPEPaxo&start_radio=1

Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto no. 1 in B flat minor, Op. 23 (UNISA 1st Prize and Barbican Hall Performances) – Chamber Orchestra of South Africa and Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, conductors Arjan Tien and James Judd

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W69cl6s-Tl8&list=RDW69cl6s-Tl8&start_radio=1&t=13s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XYXZZRBdF8&list=RD4XYXZZRBdF8&start_radio=1&t=40s

Robert Schumann: Kreisleriana, Op. 16, Cleveland Museum of Art, USA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF8GiM8f0m8&t=17s>

Maurice Ravel: Concerto for the Left Hand and Orchestra, Barbican Hall, conductor Diego Masson

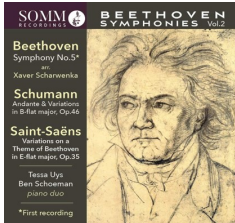
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os91jWfs7E8&list=RDOs91jWfs7E8&start_radio=1&t=73s

7. DISCOGRAPHY



Volume 1

To purchase Vol 1: <https://somm-recordings.com/recording/beethoven-symphonies-volume-1/>



Volume 2

To purchase Vol 2: <https://somm-recordings.com/recording/beethoven-symphonies-volume-2/>



Volume 3

To purchase Vol 3: <https://somm-recordings.com/recording/beethoven-symphonies-volume-3/>



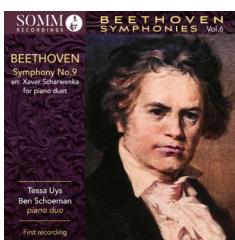
Volume 4

To purchase Vol 4: <https://somm-recordings.com/recording/beethoven-symphonies-volume-4/>



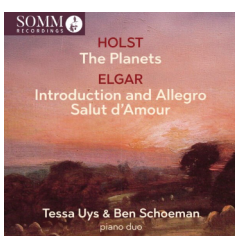
Volume 5

To purchase Vol 5: <https://somm-recordings.com/recording/beethoven-symphonies-volume-five/>



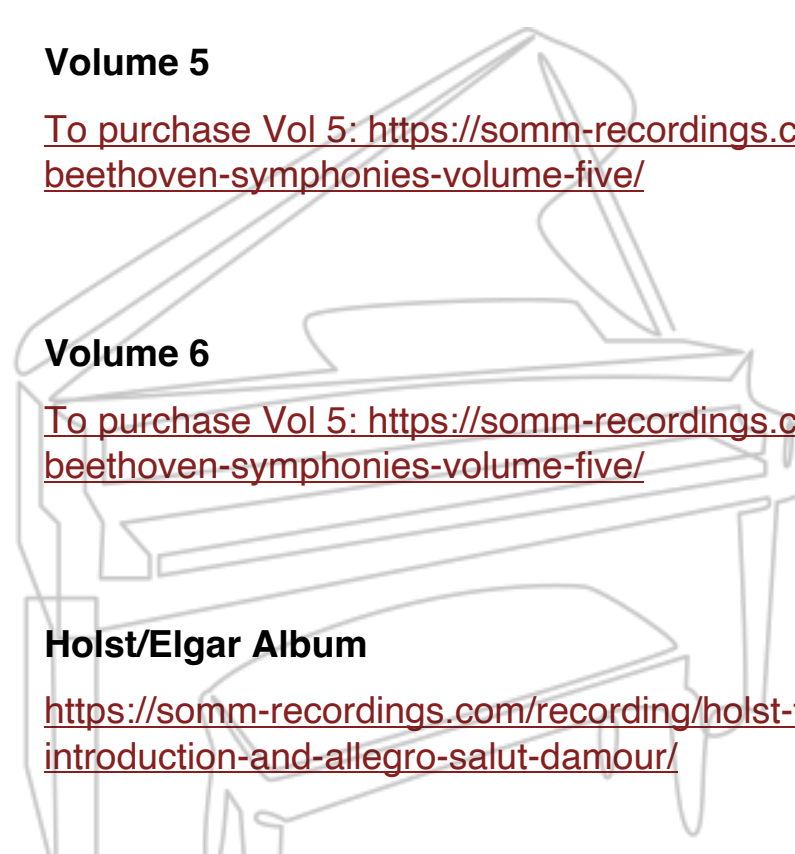
Volume 6

To purchase Vol 5: <https://somm-recordings.com/recording/beethoven-symphonies-volume-five/>



Holst/Elgar Album

<https://somm-recordings.com/recording/holst-the-planets-elgar-introduction-and-allegro-salut-damour/>



8. FACT SHEET / QUICK REFERENCE

Key awards (UNISA Competition, Royal Over-Seas League, Cleveland, etc.).

Venues performed (Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Barbican, Konzerthaus Berlin, etc.).

Festivals (City of London, Edinburgh, Enescu Bucharest, etc.).

• Based in London, performing internationally.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: info@benschoeman.com

Website: benschoeman.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/benschoeman.pianist>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/benschoeman347/>

X/Twitter: <https://x.com/BenSchoeman1>

THANK YOU

BEN **BEN** *SCHOEMAN*