

The Piano Concerto (V)

A LIFE Institute Course

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<http://LIFECourses.ca/Piano>



Plan for Session

- Carry over – Brahms
- The Great Pianist/Composers
 - Frédéric Chopin 1810 – 1849
 - Franz Liszt 1811 – 1886
 - Ferruccio Busoni 1866 – 1924
- Who to cover next week?
 - Schoenberg, Ligeti, Barber, Gershwin, Hindemith, Lutoslawski, Janacek, Britten, *Rachmaninoff*, Ravel, *Shostakovich*, *Bartok*, Prokofiev, Stravinsky

Johannes Brahms 1833 - 97



- Broadcaster Rob Cowen, conductor Andre Previn and members of the LSO talk about their love of Brahms.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVzcJIHC53w>

- Brahms - Piano Concerto No. 1, Hélène Grimaud, Piano
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOlc2PAiWUU>



Frédéric Chopin 1810 - 49

- Born in Warsaw with a French father and Polish mother
- Child protegee
- At age 21 he settled in Paris, never to return to Warsaw
- Performed mostly in salons
- Was a friend of Franz Liszt and had a troubled relationship with George Sand



Chopin's life and music



András Schiff explains Chopin – 51 minutes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6iEsULrSCU>

Alternative Views of Chopin



- Explains the musical structure of Chopin's piano music
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIW9TiaUOZ0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M36cXvotwTc>

- “In Search of Chopin” Documentary by Phil Grabsky – 2 hours
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeWOnriMMMyE>



Chopin-Piano Concerto No.2



Arthur Rubinstein, piano; LSO, André Previn, conductor
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_GecdMywPw

Franz Liszt 1811 - 1886

- Born in the Kingdom of Hungary
- First concert performance in 1820
- Moved to Paris in 1827 (after his father's death)
- Children with Countess Marie d'Agoult; linked to Princess Carolyne zu Sayn-Wittgenstein
- Described as the first super-star!



Liszt in the World - UCTV



Documentary – 83 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-ilb3jfWao>

Liszt Transcriptions



2nd movement, Beethoven's 7th Symphony, Glenn Gould
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnS1i9bVGHU>

Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1



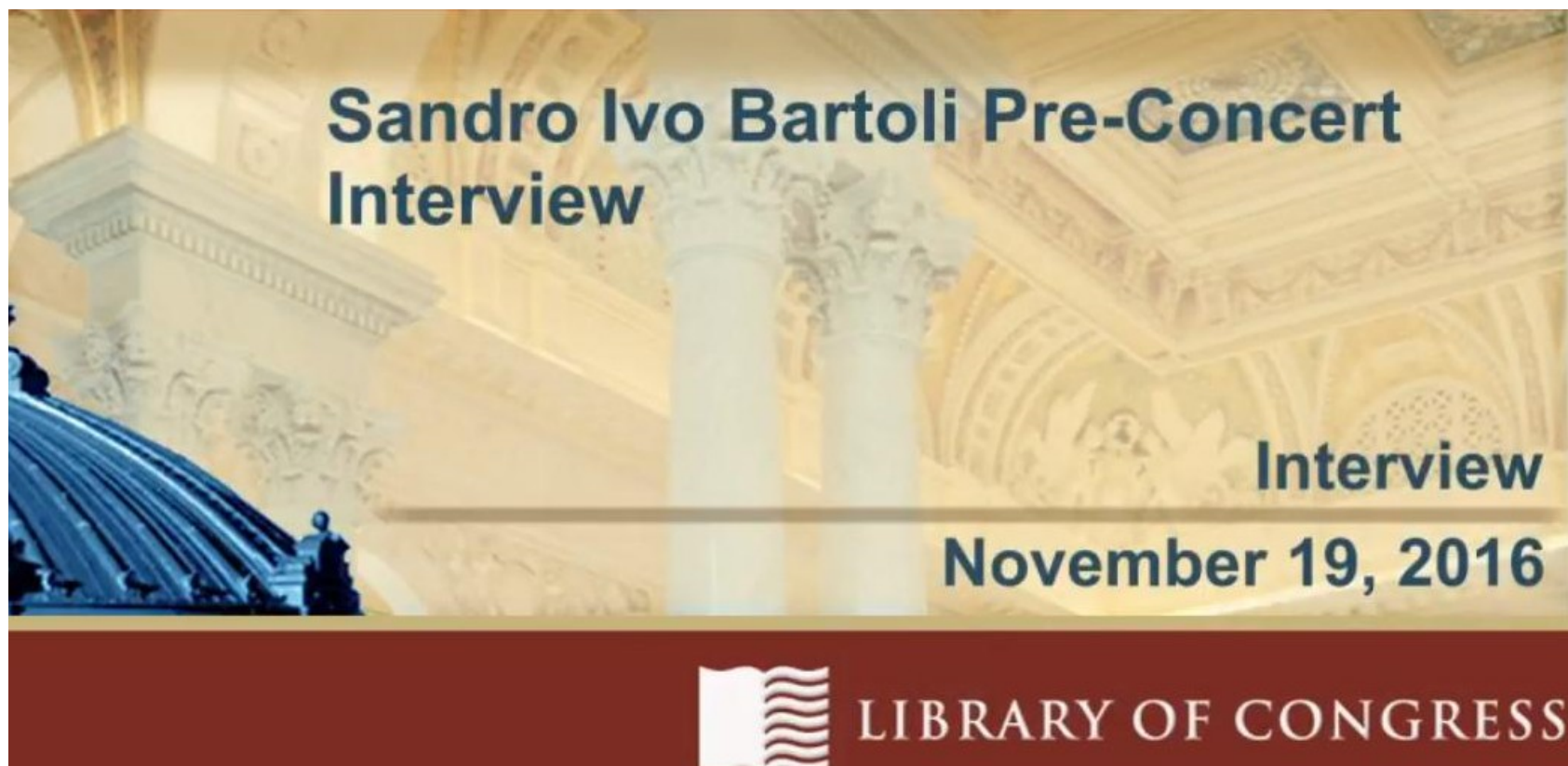
Lang Lang - Last Night Proms 2011; BBC SO
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yE3Dz0-koA>

Ferruccio Busoni 1866-1924

- Italian composer, pianist, conductor, editor, writer, and teacher
- 1875: Concert career began (his parents profited from his playing)
- 1877 Busoni met Liszt in Vienna
- 1892 resigned post a New England Conservatory, toured eastern US
- 1893 moved to Berlin where he mostly lived the rest of his life



Before Busoni Concert



David Plylar interviews Sandro Ivo Bartoli about the centennial of Ferruccio Busoni's birth
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkwVG14vmiA>

Bach Busoni Chaconne D Minor



Valentina Lisitsa, Paris, 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOFFiFiLIT8>

Piano Concerto in C Major

- One of the largest piano concertos ever written
 - Lasts 70+ minutes; 5 movements
 - Includes male chorus in final movement
- 1904 first performance in Berlin, Busoni was the soloist, Muck led Berlin Philharmonic
- First American performance in 1932, performed by dedicate's daughter (Karin Dayas)

Marc-André Hamelin piano



Marc-André Hamelin piano. Sibelius Hall, Lahti - 31st March 2001
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohPzurDZzZ4>

The Attempt ...

- Illustrate the history of the piano concerto from Bach to the 20th century
- We considered some of the important piano composers, and a few of the less important ones
- How did the music change? How did the experience change?
- What to consider in the 20th century?

Great Modern Concertos

- One conductor's list:
 - Schoenberg, Ligeti, Barber, Gershwin, Hindemith, Lutoslawski, Janacek, Britten, *Rachmaninoff*, Ravel, *Shostakovich*, *Bartok*, Prokofiev, Stravinsky
 - [List](#) by Kenneth Woods, 2011
- Possible: Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Bartok plus one
- Comment, suggestions ...

End Note: Chopin Nocturne

- Wladyslaw Szpilman plays Nocturne in C sharp-minor. Recorded in 1997. He played this music in the last live broadcast for the Polish Radio in 1939.

