



Benjamin Grosvenor Proms 46 & 56

BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, 2010–12

It's probably Mozart's best-known and best-loved piano concerto that young British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor performs in Prom 56: No. 21 in C major, K467. 'I'm not sure the fact that a piece is well known necessarily affects your interpretation of it,' he explains. 'The process remains the same, beginning with a careful reading of the score. Trying to be as diligent and as honest as possible in preparation means that it's possible to produce an individual interpretation where the desire to be individual per se hasn't been a governing aim.'

It's a piece that Grosvenor has known for a long time. 'It's actually the first concerto I performed, with my secondary school orchestra, when I was 11.' What keeps bringing him back to the piece? 'It's certainly a concerto in which Mozart delights in virtuosic display, while producing the most beautiful music. It's doubtless the most famous part of the concerto, but I enjoy most of all the sublime second movement.'

He's also performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* a few days earlier (Prom 46). By the time his two Proms come round he'll be just 26 but he's already appeared at the festival six times, and played at the Last Night in 2015. What does he most enjoy about it? 'It's surprising how such a cavernous space as the Royal Albert Hall can take on such a feeling of intimacy,' he explains.