

BIOGRAPHY

Johan de Cock was born in 1975 in Namibia. He studied Classical Piano Performing with Catharina Struthers and Harpsichord/Organ with Boudewijn Scholten at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa from 1994 - 1996. He made his concerto debut at the City Hall in Cape Town in 1996, playing Liszt's *Totentanz* with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Gerhard Korsten. Johan moved to the UK in October 2000.

His own compositions have been recorded by the *Afrimusië* record label in South Africa, and his music has also been featured on the British television series, *Free Spirit*, broadcast on Channel 4 and iTV. In 2005 he was commissioned by St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace to compose a new Christmas work, *Stargazing*, for Soprano, Piano, Electronics and Video. It was premiered on 13 December 2005, and excerpts were also broadcast on BBC London Radio.

Johan has performed as a solo classical pianist at venues including Chichester Cathedral, and in London at St-Sepulchre-without-Newgate, St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Bishopsgate, St Martin-within-Ludgate, Steinway Hall, and the Burgh House & Hampstead Museum. As an accompanist he has appeared at Pizza on the Park, the London Arena, the Richmond Concert Society, Bartok in Camden (where he held a three-year residency), the Battersea Barge, the Soho Actors' Centre, and the Leytonstone Festival.

Johan currently lives in Saltdean, Brighton in East Sussex with his wife and their cat, where he teaches piano and music theory from their home studio.

FUTURE CONCERTS IN SUSSEX

Friday, 17 October 2014, 12:30pm

**Piano works by Mendelssohn,
Chopin, Liszt and Johan de Cock**
Brighton Unitarian Church
New Road, Brighton, BN1 1UF
Tickets: £3.50 (on the door)
www.brightonunitarian.org.uk

Sunday, 23 November 2014, 4:00pm

A Christmas Piano Recital
The Under Ground Theatre, Eastbourne
1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4TL
Tickets: £10 / £8
www.undergroundtheatre.co.uk

Saturday, 20 December 2014, 4:00pm

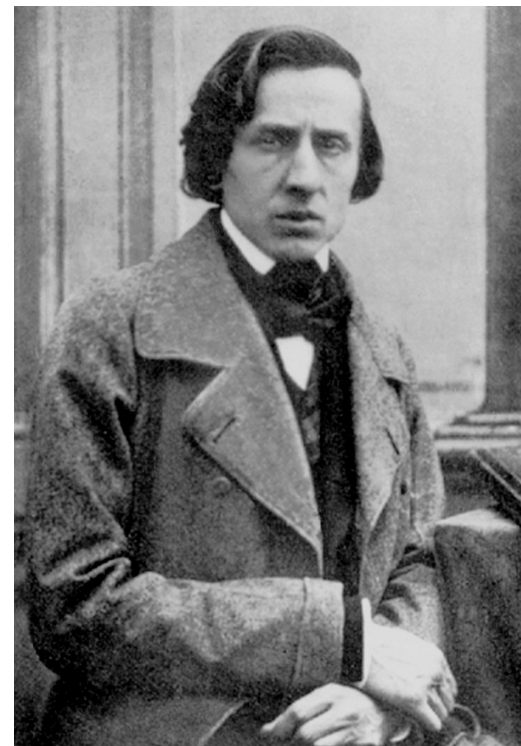
A Christmas Piano Recital
Brighton Friends' Meeting House
Ship Street, Brighton, BN1 1AF
Tickets: £10 / £8
www.brightonquakers.co.uk

For more information, up-to-date concert listings and ticket sales, please see
www.johandecock.com

Friends' Meeting House

Ship Street, Brighton, BN1 1 AF

BRIGHTON FRINGE.



Saturdays 17, 24 & 31 May 2014, 4:00pm

A Chopin Recital

Johan de Cock

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin (1810 - 1849)

PROGRAMME

March Funèbre in C minor, Op posth. 72 [1826]
(Oxford Edition)

Nocturne No.21 in C minor, Op posth. [1847 - 1848]

Polonaise in A flat, Op posth. KK IVa No.2 [1821]

Waltz in E flat, 'Sostenuto', Op posth. KK IVb No.10 [1827]
Waltz in A flat, Op posth. KK IVa No.13 [1827 - 1830]

Lento con gran espressione in C sharp minor, Op posth. [1830]

Moderato in E, Op posth. [1843]

Waltz in A minor, Op posth. KK IVb No.11 [1847 - 1849]
Waltz in E, Op posth. KK IVa No.12 [1829]

Mazurka in C sharp minor, Op 50 No.3 [1841 - 1842]

Nocturne No.18 in E, Op 62 No.2 [1846]

Waltz in C sharp minor, Op 64 No.2 [1846 - 1847]

Impromptu No.3 in G flat, Op 51 [1842]

Polonaise in G minor, KK IIa No.1 [1817]

Mazurka in F minor, Op posth. 68 No.4 [1849]
(Completed by Jan Ekier, published by PWM)



Please note: as there are no multi-movement works or sonatas, feel free to remain silent or applaud whenever and however you please (or not)!

LESSER-KNOWN PIANO WORKS BY CHOPIN?

Besides two concertos and a few works for piano and orchestra, one piano trio, three works for cello and piano, a set of variations for piano duet, and a handful of songs, Chopin's oeuvre is almost exclusively for solo piano. From the keen amateur to the polished professional, Chopin's works have been played the world over; loved and adored by millions; and recorded repeatedly by countless numbers of great pianists. So, how is it possible that some of these works can be lesser-known?

During his short lifetime - he died of tuberculosis at the age of 39 - Chopin published 65 works; works to which he attached official opus numbers. The first was a Rondo in C minor for solo piano, Op.1 [1825], and the last was a Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op.65 [1847]. Chopin was extremely self-critical and did not allow the publication of a work, unless he felt it was suitably original, honed and significant enough.

However, some of his very early works were published in Poland before he left his homeland in 1830. These were not known in the West until their publications in the early 20th Century. Further compositions were also published after his death in 1849, drawn from the numerous manuscripts found amongst his personal belongings. Julius Fontana, an old childhood friend of Chopin, was responsible for the publication of many of these posthumous works (although he felt he needed to edit, change and 'improve' some of Chopin's original writing before publishing it!) Fortunately, these days (thanks to the new 'Urtext' editions) we are able to see and play these pieces as Chopin originally wrote them.

The very first composition that the young, 7 year old Fryderyk Chopin published in 1817 was his Polonaise in G minor (Chopin's father, Nicolas, had to help him notate the work!) One tends to forget that, just like Mozart and Beethoven, the little Chopin was a child prodigy too!

The last composition that Chopin ever wrote was the incomplete, mournful and bitter-sweet Mazurka in F minor (published after his death as Op.68 No.4). I am playing the version completed by Jan Ekier, who is a Polish pianist, composer and the authoritative editor of Chopin's music for the (Urtext) Polish National Edition. Ekier celebrated his 100th birthday last year, and is still going strong!