

The Köln Concert

Ralph van Raat plays Keith Jarrett

A legendary album — A legendary album brought to life on stage

In January 1975, Keith Jarrett gave an improvised piano concert in Cologne that would become one of the most iconic piano albums of all time: *The Köln Concert*. More than fifty years later, pianist Ralph van Raat brings this legendary music back to life in a unique live performance.

Rather than imitating Jarrett, Van Raat approaches the famous improvisation as a fully-fledged concert work, performing from the complete transcription while preserving the freedom, tension and hypnotic atmosphere that made the original recording so extraordinary. The result is a compelling concert experience at the crossroads of classical music, jazz, minimalism and improvisation.

About The Köln Concert

The Köln Concert is the legendary live improvisation recital that Keith Jarrett gave at the Cologne Opera House on 24 January 1975. Released later that year on ECM Records, it became the best-selling solo jazz album and the best-selling piano album of all time.

The mythology surrounding the concert was reinforced by the remarkable circumstances of the performance. Jarrett arrived exhausted and was forced to play on a poorly maintained piano that was not intended for the recital. Those very limitations profoundly shaped the character of the improvisations: rhythmic, repetitive, lyrical and intensely personal.

More than fifty years later, *The Köln Concert* remains a landmark in music history, transcending the boundaries of jazz and continuing to inspire audiences around the world.

About Ralph van Raat

Ralph van Raat is internationally recognised as one of the most versatile Dutch pianists of his generation. A Steinway Artist, he has appeared with orchestras including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

He is renowned for his adventurous programming and innovative projects that connect classical music, minimalism and crossover repertoire. A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Van Raat has worked closely with composers such as John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Gavin Bryars, Joep Franssens, Arvo Pärt, Tan Dun and John Tavener.

Several composers have written works especially for him, including Karen Tanaka, Robin de Raaff and Joey Roukens.

Why this project works

- One of the most famous piano albums ever recorded
- Appeals to both classical and jazz audiences
- Accessible without artistic compromise
- An atmospheric and engaging solo evening built around a compelling story; Ralph enjoys
- sharing the fascinating background of the work with audiences
- Ideal for concert halls, festivals, crossover series and late-night programming
- Strong publicity potential surrounding this legendary 1975 recording

Technical Information

- Solo piano recital
- Duration: approximately 70–75 minutes (without interval)
- Concert grand piano required (preferably a Steinway D)

Video & Media

- [BBC Radio 3 feature: The Story of The Köln Concert](#)
- [Ralph van Raat playing The Köln Concert – Part IIc](#)

Additional Programming Opportunity

Keith Jarrett also composed two substantial classical works:

- Sonata for Violin and Piano
- Elegy for Violin and Piano

Combined with The Köln Concert, these works could form the basis of an attractive Keith Jarrett-themed programme or mini-festival for venues and festivals wishing to explore a broader perspective on Jarrett's artistic legacy.



Bookings

Mr. Marco van de Klundert | CEO & artist manager
marco@domselær.nl
+31 6 2150 3480

