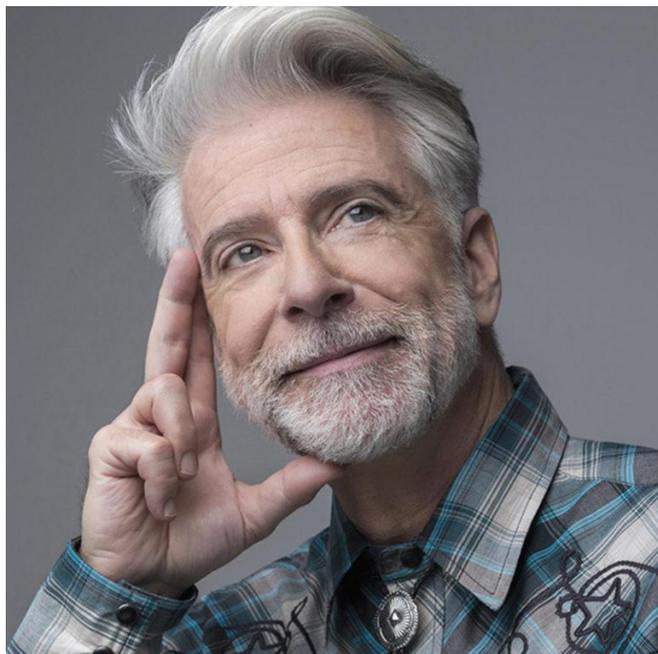


## BIOGRAPHY DAVID LIVELY



### **A dual nationality**

French-American pianist David Lively has a passionate attachment to the artistic legacies of France and the United States that makes him a performer of choice for the music of both countries.

### **Early career**

In 1969, at the age of 16, he left his native United States for France to study at the École normale de musique with Jules Gentil (formerly Alfred Cortot's assistant). He went on to study with Wilhelm Kempff, Eugene Istomin, Nadia Boulanger, Erich Leinsdorf and, above all, Claudio Arrau. With his dazzling technique and musical intensity, he

quickly won a number of international prizes, including the Concours International Marguerite Long, the Queen Elisabeth Competition, the Geneva International Music Competition, the International Tchaikovsky Competition, where he was awarded the Special Prize for contemporary music, and the Dino Ciani Prize of La Scala of Milan. Public acclaim was not far behind.

### **Vast concerto repertoire**

Soon he had embarked on a multi-faceted career marked by a diversity that continues to this day. He is intimately familiar with the great solo repertoire, mastering over 80 concertos and specializing in masterpieces so technically daunting that they are hardly ever performed. These include the Busoni and Furtwängler concertos, and Joseph Marx's extremely challenging Castelli Romani; his recording of this work with the Bochum Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Steven Sloane, was recently re-released under the Naxos label. In this repertoire, he has had the privilege of working with conductors such as Erich Leinsdorf, Ferdinand Leitner, Kurt Sanderling, Pierre Dervaux, Hans Vonk, Stanisław Skrowaczewski, Jerzy Semkow, Lovro von Matačić, Walter Susskind, Michael Gielen, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Colin Davis, Rafael Kubelik, Pascal Rohé, Dennis Russel Davies, Ronald Zollman, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Yutaka Sado, Hubert Soudant, Jean Claude Casadesus, Michel Plasson and more.

### **I Got Rhythm**

Mr. Lively identifies particularly with twentieth-century American music, notably the works of Aaron Copland and Elliott Carter, who was a close friend. His recent *I Got Rhythm*—a CD of American composers with selections from Gottschalk, Gershwin, Joplin, Barber, Ives, Bolcom, Albright and Carter—has been a critical and popular success. *Le Monde* critic Pierre Gervasoni calls Mr. Lively “an inspired guide to American music,” while Thierry

Hillieriteau of *Le Figaro* praises him as “an exceptionally gifted keyboard artist [...], among the finest interpreters of the music of Elliott Carter, Aaron Copland and Charles Ives.”

### **Ardent champion of contemporary music**

His innate virtuosity makes him a champion of new music. Examples include the European premieres of Takemitsu's *Riverrun* (with conductor Kent Nagano), Saariaho's trio *Cendres*, Travlos's *Double Concerto* (with the Moscow Radio Orchestra and Vladimir Fedosseyev), and Sébastien Gaxie's *Continuous Snapshots*, dedicated to Mr. Lively and first performed at IRCAM's *ManiFeste* festival. He played and recorded Benoît Mernier's piano concerto with the *Orchestre national de Montpellier-Languedoc-Roussillon*, conducted by Ernest Martínez Izquierdo. He has a close relationship with Philippe Boesmans, having frequently performed the composer's chamber music and piano concerto, and has recorded his complete works for piano. And thanks to a similar kinship with William Blank, he premiered Blank's *Cris* concerto and more recently his concerto *Reflecting Black*. Written for and dedicated to Mr. Lively, *Reflecting Black* was commissioned by the *Orchestre de la Suisse romande* and recorded on the Aeon label with conductor Pascal Rophé. He recently premiered Eric Tanguy's *Quintet for Piano and Strings* at the *Salle Cortot*.

### **French composers**

Mr. Lively has always been drawn to French composers, in particular the impressionists who prompted his move to France while still in his teens. At 18, his interpretation of Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand* in the final round of the *Queen Elisabeth Competition* led King Baudouin to comment “You nearly set off a revolution.” Very early on, he recorded the complete *Nocturnes* by Gabriel Fauré in memory of his teacher Jules Gentil, who had been a close friend of Fauré. Mr. Lively also transcribed Debussy's *Martyrdom of Saint Sébastien* for two actors, a synthesizer and a small ensemble; it premiered at the *Saint Lizier Festival* in Ariège, where he was artistic director for over 35 years. He has showcased the works of composer Benjamin Godard under the sponsorship of the *Bru Zane Foundation* in Venice and Moscow, as well as at the *Piano aux Jacobins* festival in Toulouse.

### **Chamber music**

David Lively is also deeply attached to chamber music, playing many concerts with the *Melos*, *Borodin*, *Psophos*, *Terpsycordes* and *Cambini-Paris* quartets; with the *Ouranos Ensemble* and with Martha Argerich, Gil Shaham, Eugene Istomin, Alexander Ghindin, Cyprien Katsaris, Sergei Nakariakov, Tatiana Samouil, Elsa Grether, Anssi Karttunen, Dame Felicity Lott, Augustin Dumay, and Gary Hoffmann.

An insatiable curiosity has led him to explore repertoires as far back as the Renaissance, and his work with period instruments has included recitals of the works of Scarlatti, Handel, Bach, Mozart and the young Beethoven on his personal 1771 Zumpfe square piano. In 2019 he recorded both Chopin concertos for the *Aparté* label, playing on an 1836 érad piano with the *Cambini-Paris Quartet*.

### **Training future talent, engaging with the world**

As artistic director of the *Saint Lizier Festival* in Ariège in southwestern France, Mr. Lively made the event a forum for young talent and seasoned musicians. Much in demand as a teacher, he has given numerous master classes at the *Shanghai Piano Festival*, at the *Sibelius Academy* in Helsinki, at the *Athens Conservatory*, at the *Enescu Lyceum* in

Bucharest, at the École normale de musique's own Centre de musique française in Paris, at the Royal Conservatory of Scotland, and for the Yuri Bashmet Academy throughout Russia. He is a founding member of ADAP International Association of Artists for Peace, alongside Hüseyin Sermet, Cyprien Katsaris, Ramzi Yassa and Nima Sarkechik.