

# JAN HUGO (FRANCE/SOUTH AFRICA)

WPTA South Africa, Vice-President

Jan Hugo is a South African concert pianist, currently residing in Paris. After starting his musical education at a young age in South Africa, he continued his studies in Italy, where he received tuition from Franco Scala and Boris Petrushansky at the Accademia Pianistica Internazionale in Imola. In 2016 he completed a Master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Mendelssohn-Bartholdy" in Leipzig, Germany. He has participated in numerous masterclasses, has won prizes in many national and international competitions and is an active soloist, chamber musician and vocal coach. Jan is passionate about historical recordings and the art of piano playing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is dedicated to sharing this knowledge with other pianists and to opening up new horizons for piano interpretation in 21<sup>st</sup> century. He has upcoming performances in France at the Liszt-en-Provence Festival and with the Cape Town Philharmonic. He is vice-president of WPTA South Africa.

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**Early recordings: An Introduction;**

**Chopin's Nocturnes and the Use of Rubato**

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In the two submitted videos, the importance of early recordings and what they mean for us today is discussed, as well as the use of rubato in historical recordings of Chopin's music. Students of Liszt, Clara Schumann and other pianists of the Romantic Generation recorded a large amount of music, and these recordings offer us a close look at 19<sup>th</sup> Century Performance Practice. Rubato is essential to Chopin's music, however there are different approaches. Bel Canto, independence of the hands and the use of agogic are discussed.

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