

# PYANOOK

#GrandPianist #DataGloves #GestureControl #MusicTech #Audiovisual



PYANOOK is the project of pianist Ralf Schmid in which he performs live on two acoustic pianos with motion-controlled electronics. While in acoustic pieces technology is often used at the post-production level to modify or expand existing sounds, Schmid uses it from the very beginning in the composition and performance of his pieces. He uses a groundbreaking innovation of music technology: mi.mu-Gloves. With them, he can immediately digitally manipulate the sound of what he plays on the piano – by hand gestures alone.

With PYANOOK, Schmid opens up completely new horizons for analog instruments and live performances. With every movement of the pianist, the compositions become alive and inextricably linked to him and his body. Every slight turn of the wrist, every finger movement changes the sound of the piano in a unique way. In addition to his intensive performance, in which he uses his entire upper body rhythmically to create the music, there is a fascinating light show and visuals by Pietro Cardarelli. Triggered by the movements of the gloves, Schmid and Cardarelli interact audiovisually in real time.

The search for the essence of sound and the exploration of its boundless possibilities has shaped much of Ralf Schmid's earlier work. He has already worked with very different artists such as Herbie Hancock, Whitney Houston, Daniel Hope or the trumpeter Joo Kraus and has led large ensembles and choirs. Within these collaborations, he has produced albums that make a strong statement for his open-mindedness. Ralf Schmid is professor at the bekknown music university of Freiburg, Germany since 2002.

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