

Benjamin Grosvenor

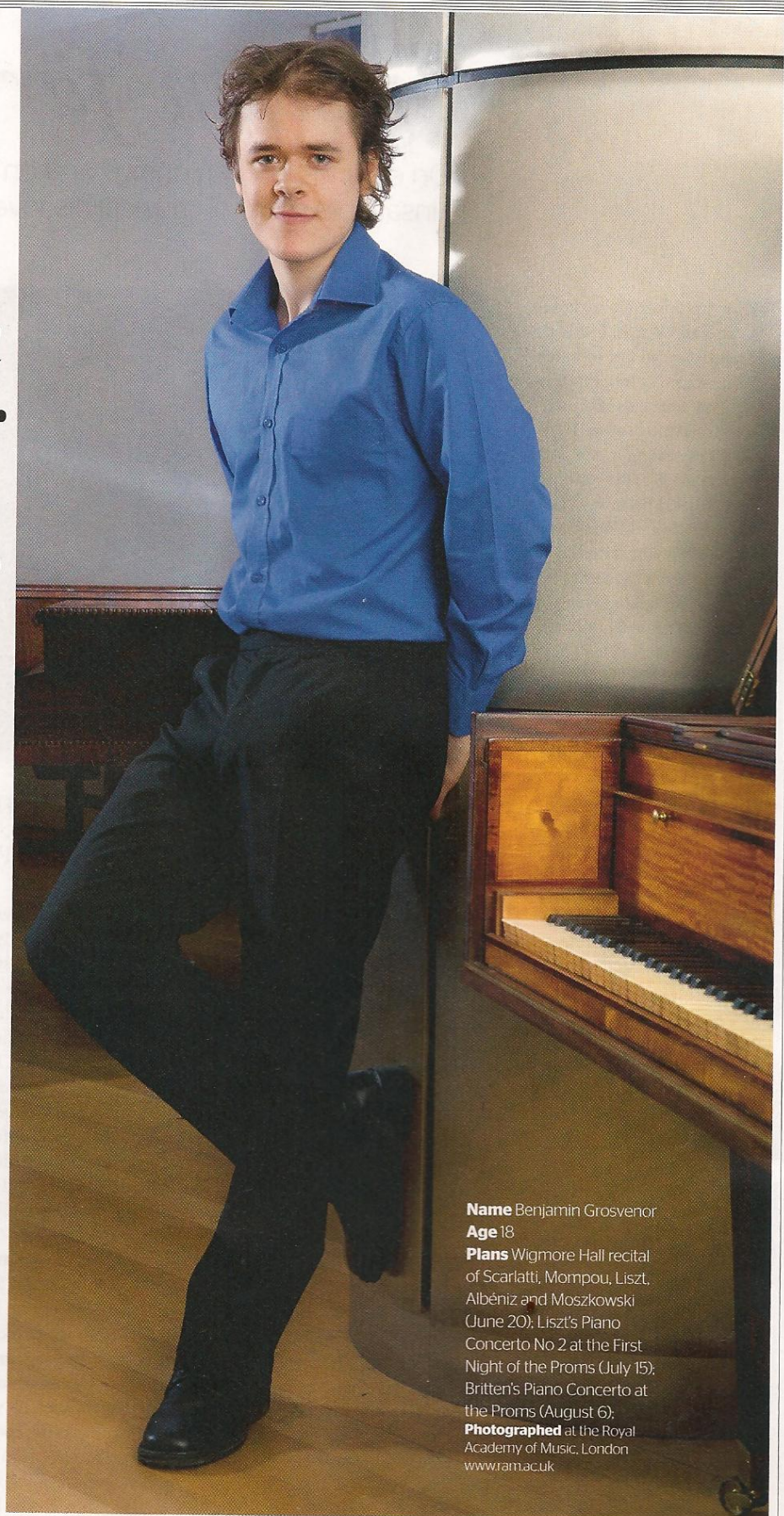
He could have opted for stardom aged 11 but the young British pianist has taken his time (sort of)

There are rules at *Gramophone* about what qualifies a recording to be considered for review and in almost every case distribution through an established recording label is a prerequisite. So when reviewer Bryce Morrison phoned up the *Gramophone* office to make a plea for a promotional CD he had heard by a young pianist it was an exceptional occurrence. BM believed strongly that here was a major talent and wanted to write about him.

On re-listening to the recording for his review (4/10), Morrison was just as impressed. "Kapustin's busy études are a gift for a pianist of such stylistic know-how and dazzling agility," he wrote, "while two Scarlatti sonatas are given with a haunting tonal haze and a brio respectively that would startle Martha Argerich herself."

That review caught the eye of Decca's artists and repertoire people. That it was Decca who recently signed the pianist was something of a surprise, given that he had been on EMI's books for some years through an artist development relationship. Yet he is clearly an artist who controls his own destiny.

Shunning easy fame after winning the 2004 BBC Young Musician of the Year keyboard final aged 11, he applied himself to studying (most recently at the Royal Academy of Music). So now a mature artist emerges, as he approaches his last teenage year, for two big tests. The first, in July, is his debut Decca disc. The same month he will become the youngest solo artist ever to open the Proms. At 18, Benjamin Grosvenor is very much an adult. ©



Name Benjamin Grosvenor

Age 18

Plans Wigmore Hall recital of Scarlatti, Mompou, Liszt, Albéniz and Moszkowski (June 20); Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2 at the First Night of the Proms (July 15); Britten's Piano Concerto at the Proms (August 6);

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