



THE ANDERSON & ROE PIANO DUO PRESENTS

THE RITE OF SPRING: A MUSICAL ODYSSEY

Running time.....36 min

GenreMusic Video / Drama / Experimental

RatingNR (Not Rated)

Year.....2014

Language.....English

Country of OriginUnited States

Format1280x720, 24fps, 16:9, Dolby Digital

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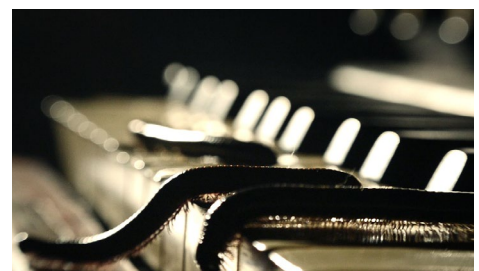
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IMDB: www.imdb.com/title/tt3312074/

SYNOPSIS

Part music video, part tale of soul-searching and survival, *The Rite of Spring: A Musical Odyssey* is a boundary-breaking film that culminates in the sacrificial destruction of a piano. The film weaves together a ferocious dueling piano performance of Igor Stravinsky's 35-minute masterwork with a narrative of existential awakening. Starting from traditional concert trappings, the protagonists are gradually sucked into a ritualistic spiral among dancers, insects, and hallucinatory worlds until they are faced with a naked reckoning in the ocean and an ancient piano ablaze in the desert.

The music at the heart of the film is *The Rite of Spring*, Igor Stravinsky's ballet that radically transformed the face of twentieth-century culture with its savage sounds and controversial narrative depicting a pagan tribe's ritualistic sacrifice of a young virgin. Anderson & Roe bring Stravinsky's watershed creation to new life, pianistically and cinematically, with a visionary interpretation that pays homage to the modernism and primordiality of the music.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



The Rite of Spring: A Musical Odyssey defies conventional description, much like the music on which this film is based. Yes, it is a large-scale music video based on *The Rite of Spring*, Igor Stravinsky's masterful ballet and one of the seminal artistic creations of all time, but it is equally a meditation on the warring impulses of the human condition, the tenuous nature of reality, and the incendiary rush of creation. Stravinsky's trailblazing composition has compelled us to push ourselves to the hilt—conceptually, physically, emotionally—and to test the parameters of our creativity and willpower.

One of the definitive works in the entire musical repertoire, *The Rite of Spring* represents a rite of passage for classical performers; it is a veritable musical Everest. Always hungry for a challenge, we first learned this work (in Stravinsky's own fiendishly difficult four-hand piano version) a decade ago as college students at Juilliard; since then, we have performed this piece well over a hundred times, and it has become a signature staple in our concert career as a piano duo. When we perform the "Rite," it fills our veins with adrenaline, overwhelms our senses, and takes our breath away every single time.

At its 1913 premiere in Paris, the "Rite" provoked a riot of legendary proportions. Fast forward 100 years: this masterwork continues to electrify with its savage rhythms, harmonic daring, and mythic weightiness. Narratively based on the rituals performed by a pagan tribe to win the benevolence of the god of spring, the piece culminates with the offering of a young virgin who dances herself to death. Yet beyond the sensational narrative of primitive sacrifice, this work encapsulates the tumultuous climate of a world on the eve of the Great War. In our own complex times, when violence, conflict, and chaos still permeate the globe, the "Rite" strikes a frighteningly resonant chord.

In the composition's centennial year, we felt inspired to bring the visceral power, timeless relevancy, and symbolic depth of the "Rite" to a new medium: the big screen. To that end, we let our imaginations go haywire in an effort to translate the mad imagery evoked by the music. This project has sparked within us a nearly obsessive devotion every step of the way, from extensive brainstorming sessions on tour to sleepless nights in the editing room. For the sake of the film we destroyed a valuable nineteenth-century organ, plunged into the waters of the Pacific in the middle of the night, traversed the scorching desert clad in tribal masks and heavy robes, threw buckets of colored paint at each other, had millipedes crawl over our hands, and literally played with fire. We went to these extreme lengths because we ultimately had no other choice: we had to stay true to the raw immediacy, colossal scope, and archetypal vision of the music. The genius of Stravinsky's "Rite" demanded the sacrifice of our comfort zone, awakening us to startling new levels of audacity and awareness.

Greg Anderson & Elizabeth Joy Roe

THE ANDERSON & ROE PIANO DUO

The Rite of Spring: A Musical Odyssey was conceived, produced, directed, performed, and edited by Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe, 31-year-old Juilliard alumni and world-renowned pianists, Billboard chart-topping artists, and Emmy-nominated pioneers of the classical music video genre.



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FULL BIO FOR THE ANDERSON & ROE PIANO DUO

Producers, directors, camera operators, editors, pianists, wanderers

Known for their adrenalized performances, original compositions, and notorious music videos, GREG ANDERSON and ELIZABETH JOY ROE are revolutionizing the piano duo experience for the 21st century. Described as “the intense synchronization of genius” (*ThirdCoast Digest*) and “the most dynamic duo of this generation” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo aims to make classical music a relevant and powerful force around the world. Their recent album, *When Words Fade* (Steinway Label), was released to critical acclaim in 2012 and spent over a dozen weeks at the top of the Billboard Classical Charts, while their Emmy-nominated, self-produced music videos have been viewed by millions on YouTube.

Since forming their dynamic musical partnership in 2002 as students at The Juilliard School, the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo has appeared on NPR and MTV, toured extensively worldwide as recitalists and orchestral soloists, and presented at numerous international leader symposiums. A performance by the Anderson & Roe Piano Duo was handpicked to appear on the *Sounds of Juilliard* CD celebrating the school's centenary. Highlights of the 2014/15 season include tours throughout North America, Asia, and Europe; concerto performances with the Calgary Philharmonic, Chautauqua Symphony, and Winnipeg Symphony; a new all-Bach album on the Steinway Label; and the release of their ambitious—and literally explosive—music film, *The Rite of Spring*.

REVIEWS



“ They turn the Rite Of Spring back into theater — you could reach out and touch it. One of the most exciting performances I've ever seen.”

Stephen Tobolowsky, ACTOR and DIRECTOR

“ No more sensational young piano duo team can be found than the Anderson & Roe Duo ... the most dynamic duo of this generation. Explosive creativity ... refreshing ... exuberant ... volatile and thrilling.”

Ken Iisaka, SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICAL VOICE

“ I am speechless ... deeply primal and provocative ... leading the charge in a new way of interpreting and performing music.”

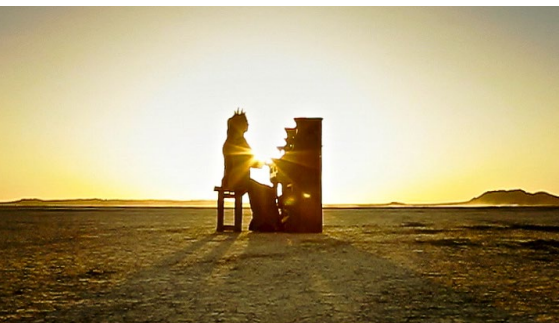
Craig Richey, PIANIST and COMPOSER, SUNDANCE FELLOW

“ Anderson & Roe take an iconoclastic pleasure in smashing through the stereotype of classical music as a tame and harmless anachronism.”

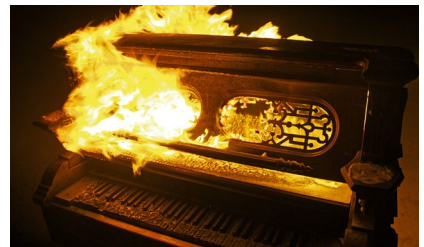
Nick Romeo, CLAVIER COMPANION

“ For me, the music is all about sex, and that completely transpires in Anderson & Roe's performance and film.”

Mike Gunton, SENIOR EXECUTIVE at BBC



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CREDITS

MUSIC

THE RITE OF SPRING

Igor Stravinsky

PERFORMERS

The Anderson & Roe Piano Duo

AUDIO ENGINEERS

Eugene Kimball

Joe Patrych

CAST

PIANIST 1 / WANDERER 1

Elizabeth Joy Roe

PIANIST 2 / WANDERER 2

Greg Anderson

DANCERS

Brian Moe

Randyn Spear-Jones

Inked Dance

Students at CSULB

ORGAN

Clough & Warren Organ (1878)

CREW

PRODUCERS

Greg Anderson

Elizabeth Joy Roe

CONCEPT AND STORY

The Anderson & Roe Piano Duo

DIRECTORS

Greg Anderson

Elizabeth Joy Roe

FILM EDITING

Greg Anderson

COSTUMES AND CHOREOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Joy Roe

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Carl Berdahl

Jamie Eng

Miguel Gauthier

Cody Mackenzie

Chris Maldonado

Caitlin Olsen

Craig Richey

Zach Villa

CAMERA OPERATORS

Greg Anderson

Mat Anderson

Carl Berdahl

Ryan Brown

Darwin Carlisle

Brent Cline

Miguel Gauthier

Cody Mackenzie

Julian Martin

Elizabeth Joy Roe

Zach Villa

SPECIAL THANKS

Michael Towbes & the Lobero Theatre; Edward Francis, Dmitry Rachmanov, & CSUN; Craig Richey & the piano students at CSULB; Carl Berdahl, Kieran Culligan, Happy Roe; Greg Smith & Steve Naifeh at Joye Cottage; Vicki & Chris Kellogg, Jonathan Whitehead & Sydney Michael; Natasha LaBelle, Carla Lazzareschi, Mike Lazzareschi, Desirae Brown Luch, Mina Manchester; Lou Dalaveris, Albert Glinsky, Conor Hanick, Linda Kobler, Spencer Myer, Pat Posey, Troy Ruptash; James Inverne, Patricia Price, Matt Herman; Michael Hawley & the EG Conference; Steinway & Sons.