

The founder of the Beaux Arts Trio, which parted ways in 2008, and the only survivor of the original ensemble, Menahem Pressler – soon to be 88 – has followed no less of a career than a child prodigy. A sign that we're not wrong: scores of musicians came to his concert. After two days of master classes at the Conservatoire and two concerts in his native town of Magdebourg, where he also played Mozart's Concerto No. 17, he enchanted the Salle Playel. Not just because his technique remains virtually impeccable, but because – with occasional glances at the score on the music rack and his touch, between velvet and silk – he continues to make beautiful music. Do other famous pianists have to wait until they are in their eighties to return to such innocence to be able to express without affectation the essence of existence ...? As an encore, the inevitable C-sharp minor Nocturne of Chopin gave witness to the same qualities: natural, simple, delicate, clear, real.

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