Unlike many musicians, pianist Burkard Schliessmann is devoted to a number of interests away from his instrument. He tells PAY how these impact his playing in a positive way.

"I wanted to deliver something 'old fashioned' that the listener can enjoy in a modern layout. The warm sound of a Vinyl really is unbeatable."

When not playing piano Schliessmann is also a keen scuba diver and photographer, and has a deep interest in philosophy. How do these other pursuits impact his playing? "I'm inspired by all of those," he answers. "They give me new power for my interpretations - for me, the whole world is art."

"Scuba diving is very influential, particularly the colours of the underwater world. Try to put all of these colours into my playing - you could call it synaesthesia. I also find animals like sharks and manta ray inspirational too, and my interactions with them have given a 'kick' to my playing."

"As for photography, that is all about catching the feeling and impression of a moment. The similarities with piano playing are clear."

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For many years my secret wish has been to record the Art of Fugue by Bach on organ" he says, when asked about potential future projects. "I would do this on one of my favourite instruments" the organ of Laurenskerk in Alkmaar, Netherlands. "It is one of the most important organs in the world, and this instrument would bring out all the colours and structures of the Art of Fugue in an ideal way."

Right now, though, the pianist has two main goals. The first is to find a new manager; having tried his hand at self management, he discovered it simply takes up too much time.

"I'd be grateful if I could find effective representation, as it would give me the chance to concentrate solely on my art. Right now I spend too much time organizing my own schedule, which is inefficient. Ideally I'd see the partnership as a collaboration, rather than simply a customer-client relationship."

Second, he has to get himself sharp for some upcoming projects: "I have some recitals in the US, and I'm also rehearsing for a new project at Teldex Studios in Berlin in September. I'll be recording major works from Robert Schumann: Fantasiestücke Opus 12 and Fantasiestücke Opus 27."

He will also appear on Classica TV, a station he's worked with a number of times. "Classica TV broadcasts on HD and in more than 18 countries all over the world, and I think it's a great way of bringing art into people's living rooms," he says. "It's a great tool, but of course it cannot match the experience attending a recital in a concert hall, the mood, the tension, the catharsis."
BURKARD SCHLIESSMANN
Regarded as one of the most influential pianists of the modern era.

Global Music Awards 2018:
3 Silver Medals in the categories classical, instrumentals solo and album

Global Music Awards 2017:
3 Silver Medals in the categories classical, instrumental/instrumentalist and album

“I rank this Chopin among the best available. With both the technique and intellect to do just about anything he wants, Schliessmann’s strength is in the lyrical, legato melodies that make Chopin’s music such a cornerstone of the piano repertoire…”
James Harrington
(American Record Guide)

“A fantastic Bach recital all around, and in an SACD recording that projects the piano right into your listening space with a three-dimensional effect that spreads the keyboard in front of you from left to right and the full length of Schliessman’s Steinway concert grand from front to back. This earns the strongest of recommendations.”
Jerry Dubins (Fanfare)

“Schliessmann’s playing is representative of the best of the modern school…”
Harold C. Schonberg
(former chief music critic of The New York Times)

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