

UNCUT

GWILYM SIMCOCK

**Good Days At Schloss
Elmau**

ACT

★★★

**Solo chamber jazz set from
award-winning pianist**

This young Welsh jazz pianist has been lauded with awards for his early work with trios and quintets – much of which sounded rather arid. His cerebral style, however, makes more sense on this solo set. These eight original compositions were recorded in Schloss Elmau, a resort in the Bavarian Alps, and share a certain ECM-ish sensibility. Meditative pieces such as “Gripper” or “Plain Song” certainly invoke Keith Jarrett’s solo work, but Simcock also showcases a fearsome piano technique that adds a modernistic twist to Bach (“Mezzotint”) and takes Bartók into avant-jazz territory (“Wake Up Call”).

John Lewis
