

**RYUICHI SAKAMOTO:  
PLAYING THE PIANO**

*(Decca)* ★★★

UK AUDIENCES will be familiar with Ryuichi Sakamoto, initially through his pioneering electronic pop act of the early Eighties Yellow Magic Orchestra and his acclaimed score for the film *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* where he starred next to David Bowie. Sakamoto is drawn to the margins as well as the mainstream but *Playing The Piano* is a delightfully accessible selection of solo piano adaptations of his renowned soundtrack work, featuring *The Last Emperor* and *The Sheltering Sky*. **RS**