

# UNCUT

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## RYUICHI SAKAMOTO

### Playing The Piano

DECCA

★★★★

**Sonic explorer tinkles the ivory, beautifully**

Oriental polymath Sakamoto has been an electro-pop pioneer as well as composer, arranger and explorer of Renaissance music, but here he steps out as a solo pianist, playing live in Japan. He applies his limpid, exquisitely exact technique to some of his best-known pieces, including his soundtracks to *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, *The Sheltering Sky* and an appropriately stately *The Last Emperor*. In "Thousand Knives" he essays Philip Glass-like cross rhythms, while "Riot In Lagos" is strident, fluid and percussive. The "special edition" version adds a second disc, which comprises a dozen new compositions arranged for electronic and acoustic