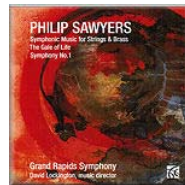




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Review



Robert WHITE *Hymns, psalms & lamentations* • Gallicantus/Gabriel Crouch rec. 2008 • **SIGNUM CLASSICS SIGCD134**

Enchanting performances which introduce a composer who is still rather neglected.

Romuald TWARDOWSKI *Exegi monumentum, Three Frescoes for Orchestra, Ioannes Rex* • International SO & Ch/Marcin Nalecz-Niesiolowski; Festival SO Odessa/Boris Rosenfeld; Zielona Gora PO/Szymon Kawalla rec.

1982-2009 • **ACTE PREALABLE APO231**

Strong performances of strong music from one of Poland's premier composers.



George Frideric HANDEL *Teseo* • Franco Fagioli (counter-tenor) Staatsorchester Stuttgart/Konrad Junghänel rec. live, 2009 • **CARUS 83.437**

A terrific record of a live performance.

Concerto Italiano Violin Concertos by Dall'oglio, Stratico, Nardini & Lolli
• Giuliano Carmignola (violin) Venice Baroque O/Andrea Marcon rec. 2009 • **ARCHIV 4776606**

You've probably barely heard of the composers, but with solo violin playing of such incredible quality this is a disc which deserves to be heard.



Mark Jordan



Gershwin by Profé: Symphonic Jazz Rhapsody in Blue, I Got Rhythm Variations & other works • Lincoln Mayorga (piano) Al Gallodoro (clarinet/bass clarinet/alto sax) Harmonie Ens/Steven Richman rec. 2004-7 • **HARMONIA MUNDI HMU907492**

Joyously jazzy but straightforward Gershwin from pianist Lincoln Mayorga and friends, including legendary reed player Al Gallodoro, recorded shortly before his passing at the age of 95.

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN Complete Symphonies • Minnesota O/Osmo Vänskä rec. 2004-8 • **BIS BISSACD1825/26**

What a joy it is to hear a new generation rediscover the greatness of core repertory like this. And not only does Vänskä rediscover Beethoven, he also gives us the best non-HIP cycle since Karajan's 1977 cycle. BIS sweetens the pot with wonderful SACD multichannel sound.



Jesús RUEDA *Symphony 3, Imaginary Journey* • Asturias SO/Maximiano Valdés rec. 2008 • **NAXOS 8.572417**

This dense and dazzling post-minimalist masterpiece from Spanish composer proves that creativity can open doors into new worlds. This music is vividly picturesque without ever relying on a program to sustain and develop its ideas. This world premiere recording, though a little in-your-face, is visceral and committed.

Ian Lace



Giacomo PUCCINI *La Rondine* • Angela Gheorghiu (soprano) Roberto Alagna (tenor) Metropolitan Opera Ch & O/Marco Armiliato rec. 2009 • **EMI CLASSICS 5569 6316189**

A pure delight. A live HD transmission from the Met in January 2009 of Puccini's long-neglected opera is now enshrined on DVD. The vibrant chemistry between Gheorghiu and Alagna is enhanced by engaging support from Marius Brenciu and Lisette Oropesa. Magnificent art-deco sets and gorgeous costumes add a sumptuous visual treat.

Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Heroic Elegy & Triumphal Epilogue* **William ALWYN** *Overture, Peter Pan Suite, Ad Infinitum* **Sir Hubert PARRY**

Hypatia **York BOWEN** *Eventide* • BBC Concert O/John Wilson rec. 2009 • **DUTTON EPOCH CDLX7237**

It is utterly amazing that these long-forgotten works have languished unrecorded for so long. All are vibrant, approachable, melodic, evocative, and often dramatic. John Wilson fully indulges the music's often overt romanticism with complete sincerity and naturalness. Highly recommended, these gems have revisited my CD player repeatedly.

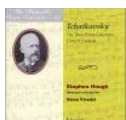


Sergei RACHMANINOV *The Isle of the Dead, Two Études-Tableaux* **Modest MUSSORGSKY** *Pictures at an Exhibition* • BBC SO/Evgeny Svetlanov rec. 1999 • **BBC LEGENDS BBCL42592**

Some MusicWeb reviewers were asked last year to blind review 10 versions of Rachmaninov's Isle of the Dead. I rated this version very highly. In fact after repeated listening I find I enjoy Svetlanov's leisurely but atmospheric and characterful approach more and more. The Mussorgsky Pictures are sharply and interestingly etched too.

Jules MASSENET *Manon* (arr. for ballet) • Tamara Rojo, The Royal Ballet & O/Martin Yates rec. 2008 • **DECCA 0743346**

Although MacMillan selected music with strong dancing rhythms not from Massenet's opera but from other of the composer's works, this new Covent Garden production cannot fail to impress. The wonderful, often breathtaking dancing of supremely graceful Tamara Rojo as Manon and the athletic yet sensitive Carlos Acosta as Des Grieux will persist in your memory.



Pyotr Ilyich TCHAIKOVSKY *Piano Concertos 1-3, Concert Fantasia* • Stephen Hough (piano) Minnesota O/Osmo Vänskä rec. 2009 • **HYPERION CDA67711/2**

A welcome revisit to Tchaikovsky's music for piano and orchestra marked Hyperion's 50th Romantic Piano Concerto release. Typical of the sort of music one enjoys when first discovering the classical world, and then tends to forget, Hough's brilliance and Vänskä's enthusiastic support make this re-acquaintance a delight – and an education!

Habanera • Elina Garanca (mezzo) Coro Filarmonico del Regio di Torino, Nazionale SO della RAI/Karel Mark Chichon rec. 2010 • **DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON 477 8776**

A scintillating collection of exotic arias and songs ranging from Carmen to Lehar and Balfe by way of Ravel, De Falla and Bernstein plus Zarzuela numbers sung with romantic yearning, fire and relish by this magnificent mezzo-soprano.



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