

BBC

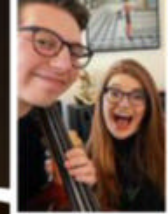
BARBARA HANNIGAN

We meet the trailblazing soprano and conductor



THE SHOW GOES ON

The musicians streaming concerts from home



music

The world's best-selling classical music magazine

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Maxim Vengerov

After 40 years at the top, the superstar violinist reveals his exciting new direction

Nitin Sawhney

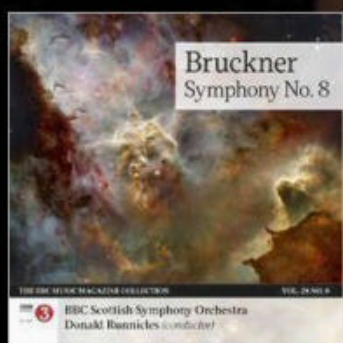
The composer's favourite music

New York walk

The Big Apple's composer haunts

Classical Cuba

The island's musical secrets



Also in this issue

Astor Piazzolla

Argentina's king of tango

Ravi Shankar

Our centenary celebration

Kodály's *Háry János*

We choose the best recordings

100 reviews by the world's finest critics

CDs, DVDs & books – see p62

Légende Arménienne

Works by Komitas & Alécian

Akhtamar Quartet

Cypres CYP1681



Komitas's Miniatures are lively and folky, while Alécian's *Un quatuor arménien* has

a darker, more wistful outlook. The admirable Akhtamar Quartet seem equally at home with the demands of both. (JP) ★★★★★

Mozartissimo Tenor Arias

Rolando Villazón (tenor) DG 483 7917

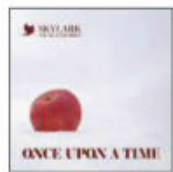


Villazón is typically larger than life in this celebration of his favourite Mozart roles. The concert

hall acoustic makes for a rich, if sometimes overbearing, listening experience. (MB) ★★★★★

Once Upon a Time Narrated works by Vaughan Williams et al

Skylark Vocal Ensemble HMR HMR-003

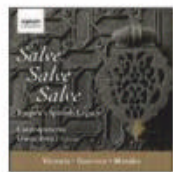


A pair of classic fairy tales is given a thoughtfully curated soundtrack of choral works; an odd idea

on paper, the concept is actually very effective and the choir in fine fettle. (MB) ★★★★★

Salve Salve Salve Choral works by Morales, Victoria et al

Contrapunctus Signum SIGCD608



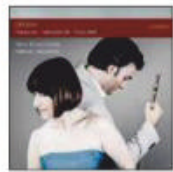
A truly glorious exploration of the influence of Josquin Desprez on the sacred

choral music of 16th-century Spain. As passionately sung as it is thoughtfully researched and programmed. (JP) ★★★★★

Undine

Works by Reinecke, Prokofiev et al

Temo Kharshiladze (flute), Ketevan Sepashvili (piano) Gramola GRAM99201



The sonatas of Reinecke, Prokofiev and Taktakishvili are renowned in the flute world. All are

delivered superbly here: tone colour is sensitively judged, dynamics well controlled. More freedom in interpretation would be welcomed. (FP) ★★★★★

Reviewers: Michael Beek (MB),

Oliver Condy (OC), Freya Parr (FP),

Jeremy Pound (JP)

The month in box-sets



Keyboard collector: Paul Badura-Skoda had a house full of period instruments

Brilliant Badura-Skoda and Barbirolli

This month's round-up also sees 50 years of Collegium Vocale Gent

Paul Badura-Skoda amassed so many period keyboard instruments that he had to purchase the property next door in order to house them all. In *Ludwig van Beethoven – The Complete Piano Sonatas* (Arcana A203) we get to hear six or seven of the instruments from his collection, each having been crafted during the composer's lifetime. The box, featuring recordings made in Vienna from 1978-89, is a celebration both of Beethoven – in his 250th anniversary year – and the great Austrian pianist, who died at the end of last year.

With *Sir John Barbirolli – The Complete RCA and Columbia Album Collection* (Sony Classical 19075988382) we are gifted almost all of the conductor's recordings made with the New York Philharmonic from 1938-42. It documents a bittersweet tenure for the young British conductor, who took over from Toscanini in 1936 and remained in his shadow. His recordings with the orchestra were celebrated, though, and the varied programme here includes everything from Purcell and Byrd to Respighi, Sibelius and Tchaikovsky.



The box documents a bittersweet New York tenure for Barbirolli

It's 50 years since Philippe Herreweghe founded the Collegium Vocale Gent, and with *Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák & Victoria* (Phil LPH 033) he presents six discs of recordings. You might think that's short shrift for five decades of music-making, but

it was only in 2010 that Herreweghe launched Phi Records and this takes in some of their very best recordings for the label. It truly represents the choir's versatility, taking us from

Bach's *Leipzig Cantatas* to Dvořák's *Requiem* – over two discs.

Baroque (Brilliant Classics 95886) is a typically exhaustive release from the budget label, which gathers together works by 14 composers from Albinoni to Vivaldi. Concertos, in all their guises, are the main focus here with a multitude of works by JS Bach filling four discs. Performers include Concerto Köln, L'Arte Dell'arco, Musica Amphion, Violini Capricciosi and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, and it's all housed in a rather elegant white box. The clean lines and empty spaces on the packaging are rather less Baroque than the contents.