

ef notes

month's selection sees organ romps, opera fantasies and orthodox tunes

atas BWV 72, 92 & 156
/Sigiswald Kuijken et al

It's debatable whether one-to-a-part is authentic. It can, however, be unduly d. This recording ly defined vocal and l performances, but the black left. (OC) ★★★

azzolla Concertos
(accordion) et al
0301416BC

The Serbian accordionist pairs Piazzolla with a transcription of Bach's Keyboard o. 1. Although the of the strings could h Djoric's playing, this is recording. (FP) ★★★

chamber music

ble MDG MDG9032189

19th-century Swedish composer Berwald's chamber music is charming, a hybrid of an sophistication and ue froth – and it all fizzes tesy of these wonderfully rformances. (OC) ★★★★★

s The Great Gatsby

onal Symphony/Carl Davis
Collection CDC032

What this recording might lack in technical precision, it makes up for in barrels of fun. Davis ballet in the style of a adway musical, which it en times over. (FP) ★★★

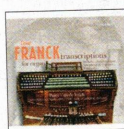
utsche Sinfonie

na Radio Symphony et al/
hearing Capriccio C5428

Given that Eisler's choral work was spurred by the spread of Nazism it is, unsurprisingly, sly dark and dramatic. The ance here crackles with ere. (JP) ★★★★★

Franck Transcriptions for Organ

Peter van de Velde (organ) *Aeolus AE11241*

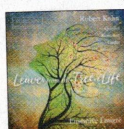


These arrangements for organ of works by César Franck are deftly realised and performed, but I wonder whether they miss the point by sounding too much like long-lost organ pieces. (OC) ★★★

Kahn

Leaves from the Tree of Life

Ensemble Emigré *Rubicon RCD1040*



Robert Kahn (1865–1951) is a composer worth giving some time to. On this disc of high-quality playing there are many treasures, not least of all the ebullient Quintet, which is a cracker. (MB) ★★★★★

Mark John McEncroe

Fanfare Suite etc

Sydney Scoring Orchestra
Navona NV6329

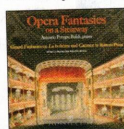


This is a robust dose of Americana, richly realised in these concert-band arrangements. The spirit and melodies have much appeal, but I miss the warmth of the strings. (MB) ★★★

Roberto Piana

Opera Fantasies on a Steinway

Antonio Pompa-Baldi (piano)
Steinway and Sons STNS30169



Of the two 'Fantasy' solo piano suites here, *La bohème* works better than the occasionally awkward-sounding *Carmen*. Both works charm more than they virtuosically thrill. (JP) ★★★

Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez etc

Jacob Kellerman (guitar); LPO
BIS BIS-2485



The London Philharmonic is at its best here, accompanying Kellerman with glorious shimmering textures in a programme centred around Spanish guitar works old and new, many with a flamenco shift. (FP) ★★★★★

Schnittke Cello Sonatas etc

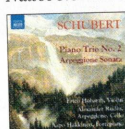
Carl-Oscar Osterlind (cello), Emil Gryesten (piano) *Danacord DACOCD 878*



Intense and insightful readings of the two cello sonatas, while the *Suite in the Old Style* loses just a little of its sparkle with the cello taking the violin role. (MB) ★★★

Schubert Piano Trio No. 2 etc

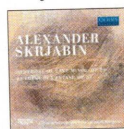
Alexander Rudin (cello) et al
Naxos 8.573884



Fresh-feeling, unmannered performances that zip along pleasantly, especially in the *Arpeggione* Sonata. The recording balance isn't always ideal, with the fortepiano occasionally sounding recessed. (JP) ★★★

Scriabin Symphony No. 2

Gürzenich-Orchester Köln/Dimitrij Kitajenko *Oehms Classics OC474*



Scriabin's Symphony No. 2 and even more masterful *Poem of Ecstasy* both edge from Russian Romanticism towards Debussy-esque impressionism. Detailed, soul-enriching performances. (OC) ★★★★★

Beethoven's World, Vol. 5

Works by Wranitzky et al

Munich Radio Orchestra/Reinhard Goebel *Sony Classical G010004036291B*



Goebel's project makes a terrific case for the lesser-known works of Beethoven's contemporaries. This fifth volume shows there's plenty to discover by those overshadowed by the great composer. (FP) ★★★

BRUITS

Works by Reena Esmail, et al

Imani Winds, et al
Bright Shiny Things BTSC-0138



A timely set of world-premiere recordings, with Vijay Iyer's title quintet a sobering comment on America's sociopolitical woes. There are moments of beauty. (MB) ★★★

Lorem Ipsum Early music from Europe and South America

Combo CAM *Genuin GEN21724*



This is fun. Though some may find the dialogue (in German) between tracks a needless distraction, the repertoire is imaginatively wide-ranging and the performances terrifically vibrant. (JP) ★★★★★

La magnifique Flute Music for the Court of Louis XIV

Barthold Kuijken (flute) *Naxos 8.579083*



The Hotteterre replica instruments lend a beautiful rounded intimacy to this music by Lully, Couperin, Visé and more, charting the emergence of the flute at the court of Louis XIV. (OC) ★★★★★

Miniatures Russes Piano Works by Arensky and Lyadov

Swetlana Meermann-Muret (piano)
Genuin GEN21730



Near-contemporaries Arensky and Lyadov were both influenced by Chopin, as this wonderful recital proves. I could listen all day to Meermann-Muret's phrasing and singing melodic line. (OC) ★★★★★

Rising Works by David Lang et al

The Crossing/Donald Nally
New Focus FCR281

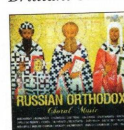


Predominantly contemporary choral works pivot around excerpts from works by David Lang and the 17th-century Buxtehude in this moving and well programmed live lockdown recital. (FP) ★★★

Russian Orthodox Choral Music

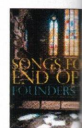
Works by Katalsky et al

Rybin and Dumka Choirs
Brilliant Classics 95969 (six discs)



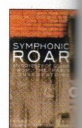
Covering a wealth of composers, this is an excellent introduction to Russian Orthodox music. The singing is earthy, passionate and blessed with those uniquely low basses. (JP) ★★★★★

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