

The Music & Vision

Classical Music Newsletter

Subliminal Messages - Issue 66, 1 September 2013

EXHILARATING MUSIC - FIVE OPERAS IN SANTA FE

'Theodore Morrison's opera *Oscar* had its world premiere at Santa Fe ... The opera deals with Oscar Wilde's decision to stay in England and face trial on grounds of 'gross indecency' when he could easily have slipped away to France. The work depicts his conviction, his two years at Reading Gaol and his release into a Victorian society that was not ready to accept him. The role of Oscar was written for countertenor David Daniels and it was a fine showcase for his talent.'

Maria Nockin's detailed and illustrated review covers all five operas. **Read more ...**

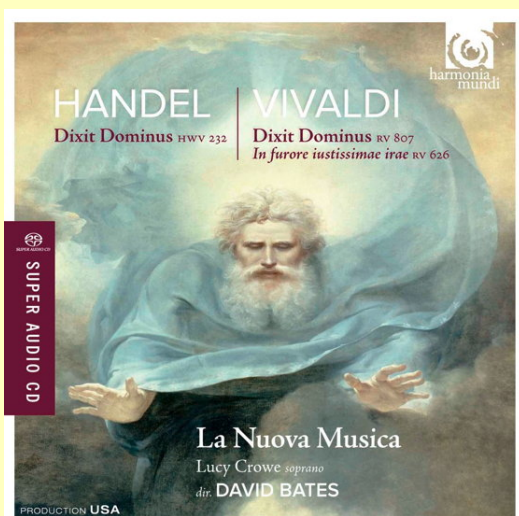
Giuseppe Pennisi visits the Salzburg Summer Festival, the Rossini Opera Festival and the Puccini Festival.

He also returns to Aix-en-Provence for contemporary and twentieth century music, and spends time at home in Rome, writing about the summer opera scene there. Roderic Dunnett visits Nevill Holt Opera for Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Tony Westerman and Mike Wheeler cover the summer organ recitals at Derby Cathedral. **Browse all this month's live concert and opera reviews ...**



The Trial Scene in Theodore Morrison's *Oscar* at Santa Fe Opera. Photo © 2013 Ken Howard

CRYSTALLINE INTENSITY - VIVALDI AND HANDEL FROM LA NUOVA MUSICA



'[Lucy] Crowe sings the baroque text *In Furore iustissimae irae* with uncommon bel canto (operatic) fervour. Of the recordings in this genre, the up-to-the-minute harmonia mundi is highly user friendly, recommendable for its baroque verisimilitude and clarity. Bates and his decisive musicians tackle the German and Italian scores with marvelous authority.'

Howard Smith is impressed with David Bates' group on harmonia mundi and also finds Yuri Gandelsman's Hindemith on the Blue Griffin label among the most fulfilling instrumental CDs encountered for some time. **Read more ...**

Patric Stanford and Paul Sarcich listen to a cross-section of contemporary works on the Navona and Ravello labels. Ron Bierman notes that Rosa Antonelli over-caresses the latin works on her Albany Records disc, and Stephen Francis Vasta finds that Neeme Järvi's rhythms in Chabrier on Chandos could be more strongly marked and firmly grounded. Keith Bramich listens to young composer/pianist Alexander

Chapman Campbell playing a first selection of his own piano music. **Browse all this month's CD reviews ...**

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SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES - EVOKE YOUR MUSICAL SENSES WITH VERMEER

'If you're in London before 8 September 2013, take an hour out of your day to visit the National Gallery's temporary exhibition Vermeer and Music: The Art of Love and Leisure. Not only does the small exhibition showcase beautiful music-themed paintings by the esteemed Dutch artist and his contemporaries, but there are a number of antique musical instruments on display. Among the finest are a beautiful twenty-stringed lute from around 1630, and a striking cittern with a carved head of an African boy.'

'There were many delightful bits of knowledge to be picked up from the paintings of domestic scenes. I never knew, for instance, that the shapes of early violins and viols were compared to the curvaceousness of women's bodies, and therefore had erotic associations. Nor did I know that there are few paintings to be found of female musicians playing the viola da gamba, because, though women have never been a stranger to this instrument, the necessary playing stance was also considered erotic.'

Read more of Ellen MacDonald-Kramer's article ...



Johannes Vermeer: *Young woman playing a guitar* (1670-72, oil on canvas)

COOPERATIVE CAULIFLOWER - EUGENE ONEGIN FROM VALENCIA

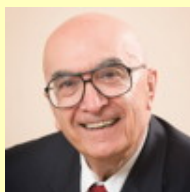


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'The best and worst of this production can be grasped at once from both sides of the booklet's front cover. Immediately one is struck by Kristine Opolais as a Tatyana so poised and beautiful that any young man, even as a too-knowing teenager, should have snapped her up without hesitation. Then to the right is a ghostly figure of advanced age, who turns out to be a supernumerary and troublesome Onegin in later life. Down a staircase descend in slow motion a procession of women destined not to dance the polonaise in Act 3. Inside is a prostrate Tatyana beneath a vast tree that resembles nothing more than the Cooperative Cauliflower encountered by Edward Lear's four children as they went round the world.'

Robert Anderson gets to grips with this Tchaikovsky DVD recording on the C Major label. **Read more ...**

IN THE NEWS - OPUS SORABJIANUM



Lotfi Mansouri

The 2013 Echo Klassik awards have been announced. A new long-awaited biography of English composer-pianist and critic Kaikhosru Shapurji Sorabji has been published, and is available as a free PDF download. Ablaze Records makes a call for orchestral scores for its Orchestral Masters series. Philippe Jaroussky's new release features music written for Farinelli, and Cala Records features the music of English composer Robert Hanson. Italian conductor Alberto Zedda performs works by Vivaldi, Rossini, Richard Strauss, Mendelssohn and



Kaikhosru Shapurji Sorabji

Stravinsky in Tokyo this month.

We mark the passing of Lotfi Mansouri, Richard Angas, Regina Resnick, Lamberto Puggelli and John Amis. **Read all the news ...**

COMING SOON - SEPTEMBER FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS

On the festival scene in September are Festival Maribor, Lucerne, the George Enescu Festival in Bucharest and Herne Hill and Opus Musica in London, with Edinburgh finishing today.

Many new seasons begin, including that of the Lexington Symphony in New England and the Symphony Orchestra of India, launching with two special guest appearances by Charles Dutoit and featuring Marat Bisengaliev, the orchestra's music director, playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto.

The Britten anniversary continues with the composer's folksong arrangements, and first performances by mezzo Alexandra Sherman in Melbourne of new orchestrations by Paul Sarcich. In London, Ensemble Amorpha celebrates with songs and talks.



Marat Bisengaliev

Philippe Jaroussky sings *Airs de castrat* in Paris, and there's a performance of David Goode's *Blitz Requiem* in London. John McCabe's String Quartet No 7 is featured in Music at Cratfield, and Felicity Vincent plays the same composer's Partita for solo cello in Aylesbury.

More listings ...

If your concert is missing, you can add it here ...

ON PRACTISING AND KINDNESS - ADVICE VIA AGONY AUNT ALICE McVEIGH



Alice McVeigh

'I still have two things worth sharing, neither of them mine. The first is this: an insightful view into 'How not to practice' from a professional violinist.'

THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON I LEARNED FROM PLAYING THE VIOLIN

'The second thing I'm willing to share ... is even better. George Saunders **delivered this address** (which is also v funny) at Syracuse University, and it is completely ace from start to finish (yes, including the monkeys). He writes so much better than I do that all I can say is: enjoy.'

Read more ...

Interact with Alice - ask her a question here ...

This newsletter, edited by Keith Bramich, is a monthly taster for Basil Ramsey's high quality and colourful online classical music magazine, published every day since January 1999.

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