

The Music & Vision

Classical Music Newsletter

Devilishly Sexy - Issue 67, 1 October 2013

OVERSIZED LIEDER - A SCHOENBERG PREMIERE IN ROMANIA



The George Enescu Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra performing Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder* at the Enescu Festival. Photo © 2013 Sorin Lupsa

'Conducting *Gurre-Lieder* is complicated because, whilst the first and the second part are pure post-Wagnerian style, the third part is similar to Mahler's late symphonies: a kaleidoscopic dialogue between groups of instrumentalists. Purists may say that recordings by Stokowski, Rattle, Abbado, Sinopoli, Boulez, Ozawa and others achieve better results. They were recorded under quite different conditions and with more experienced orchestras. The chorus was excellent ... In any event, fifteen minutes of standing ovation followed two and a half hours of concert.'

Giuseppe Pennisi sends us three reports from the George Enescu Festival in Bucharest, also covering contemporary music concerts and a performance of Verdi's *Otello*. He also returns to Salzburg for a Marionette performance of Wagner's *Ring* and to Sagra Musicale Umbra in Italy. **Read more ...**

Maria Nockin visits San Francisco Opera for an extremely visual production of Arrigo Boito's *Mefistofele* and for Tobias Picker and Sandy McClatchy's fascinating new opera *Dolores Claiborne*. At Los Angeles Opera she discovers a devilishly sexy temptress in Patricia Bardon as Bizet's *Carmen*.

Gregory Moomjy pays tribute to New York City Opera following a performance of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Anna Nicole* which could well be the company's last, due to financial troubles. Suzanne Torrey was at the Cleveland Orchestra's opening night in Severance Hall for Beethoven and Mahler.

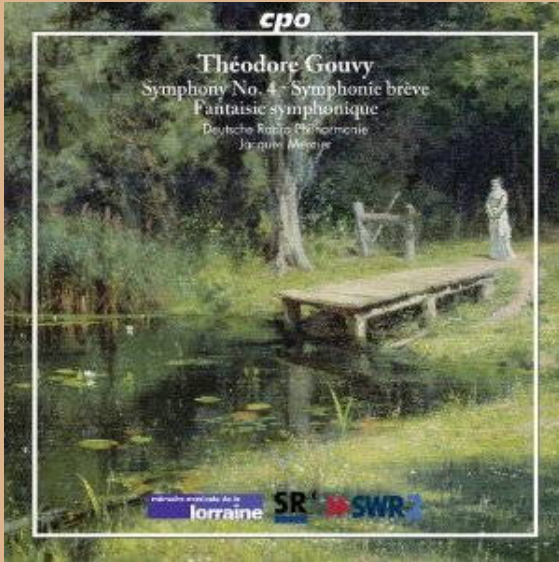
Mike Wheeler reviews Katherine Jenkinson and Ning Kam's opening recital for Derby Chamber Music's new season. Keith Bramich listens to the Allegri Quartet in an extraordinary new string quartet by Alec Roth at Malvern Concert Club.

Browse all this month's live concert and opera reviews ...



Ildar Abdrazakov in the title role of Arrigo Boito's 'Mefistofele' at San Francisco Opera. Photo © 2013 Cory Weaver

LIVELY AND COLOURFUL - LOUIS THEODORE GOUVY



Théodore Gouvy: *Symphony 4;*
Fantaisie Symphonique - Mercier.
© 2013 cpo

'I'd not heard of the French composer Louis Théodore Gouvy (1819-1898) until recently, when I heard his oratorio *Oedipe à Colone*, a score that, striking generalized Romantic postures while nodding to oratorio tradition, didn't sound particularly French. The symphonic music collected here, on the other hand, does — to different degrees and in different styles!'

Stephen Francis Vasta reckons cpo's disc of Gouvy's orchestral music is definitely worth your attention. **More ...**

Robert Anderson finds Isabelle Faust a fine protagonist in Bartók's violin concertos on harmonia mundi. Paul Sarcich recommends *Brass Taps*, the latest disc from Roger Argente's Superbrass. Patric Stanford listens to recorder virtuoso Jill Kemp on MMC Recordings in an English repertoire which continues to grow with serious musical consequence.

Andrew Schartmann is impressed by Mendelssohn from Laura Buruiana and



Ferenc Vizi (Coviello Classics) and finds Lera Auerbach's music (on Cedille) 'competently crafted and deeply affecting', but has serious issues with Cameron Watson's C P E Bach and Beethoven on MSR Classics. Howard Smith discovers orchestral music by Ignacy Dobrzynski on Chandos and an impressive piano concerto by David Nisbet Stewart on navona records.

Browse all this month's CD reviews ...

IN THE NEWS - THE AMERICAN PRIZE

Music's Delight

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Winners of the American Prize have been announced in the conducting, choral performance, opera, ensemble and orchestral categories. Musical treasures of the pre-classical period have been made

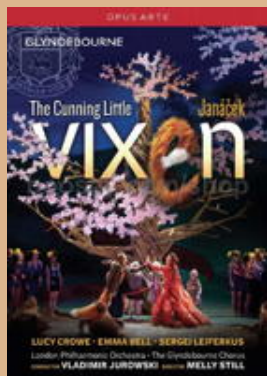
AMATI The Marketplace for Stringed Instruments

Fine String Auction
October 2013

available online by Swiss publisher Music's Delight. Amati announces its October 2013 Fine String Auction. British counter-tenor Iestyn Davies interrupts a recording session for Vivat to sing at the Last Night of the Proms. Italian coloratura soprano Desirée Rancatore opens the London Symphony Orchestra's 2013/14 season. Klassiske Dage, the Holstebro International Music Festival in Denmark, is running a masterclass featuring Sarah Willis, Ivry Gitlis and Olli Mustonen, streamed live from Holstebro on 4 October. A new *Secular Requiem* by Russell Pascoe and Anthony Pinching is to receive a performance in London in November.

We mark the passing of Larry Lake, Ratiba El-Hefny, Peter Aston, Lisa Otto, Ilja Hurník, Dick Raaijmakers, and Makoto Moroi. **Read the news in detail ...**

UNSTINTED COMMITMENT - *CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN* AT GLYNDEBOURNE



'Vladimir Jurowski's magic wand keeps things moving with a panache that is truly striking, and his lustrous style suits this enchanting score to perfection.'

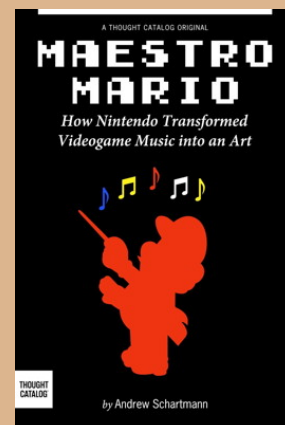
Gerald Fenech is impressed by Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen* from Glyndebourne on DVD from Opus Arte. Robert Anderson, however, has reservations about the visual aspects of Massenet's *Don Quichotte* from Sofia on Dynamic: 'The Sofia pit has performed throughout with a rationality that appears only fitfully on stage. Francesco Rosa and his team are never more moving than when they portray the triumphant Don, possessed at last of the necklace, but cruelly dashed of any reward.' **Read more ...**

WALTZING WITH SUPER MARIO

'In this final installment of Pop Music and the Classical Idiom, we turn yet again to the subject of classical music within the context of videogames. As we saw last time, early game developers didn't pay much attention to the musical content of their products and often resorted to lifting pieces from the Western canon in order to provide some sort of background sound. In other words, creative endeavors in the musical domain were virtually nonexistent. All of that changed, however, when Nintendo launched the Nintendo Entertainment System in the mid-1980s.'

Andrew Schartmann continues his ongoing *Musical Tidbits* series ...

Please buy a copy of Andrew's new book by clicking on the image to the right.



COMING SOON - LIVE PERFORMANCE IN OCTOBER



On the festival scene in October are the Budapest Baroque Festival, Klassiske Dage - Holstebro International Music Festival, Cracovia Music Festival, BEMUS (45th Belgrade Music Festival), the Little Missenden Festival, Herne Hill Music Festival, Lago di Garda Music Festival, In ... Canto sul Garda, Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico) and the Malta International Choir Competition and Festival.

Other interesting events include the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra in Ankara beginning its twentieth season with Dvořák, Mahler and Smetana. The Lucerne Festival Orchestra puts in an appearance at Tokyo's Suntory Hall with Schubert and Bruckner, and give a Beethoven concert there with Radu Lupu. In Santiago, Chile, there's the start of a run of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

Concerts in the UK include Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir, with music by Gesualdo, Stravinsky, Bach and Warlock; Berlioz Beethoven and Brahms from Grzegorz Nowak and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Monteverdi, Handel and Cavalli from English Touring Opera; and 'French Connections' - Gounod, Poulenc, Mozart (Paris Symphony) and Saint-Saëns from Guernsey Camerata.

In the USA there's cello and piano music by Federico Ibarra, Dora Pejacevic and Saint-Saëns at the launch of the 2013-4 Chameleon Chamber Music Series in Fort Lauderdale, FL. In New York City, Jeff Lankov plays piano music by Robert Xavier Rodriguez, Orchestra Jakobsplatz Munich makes its North American concert debut and Haskell Small plays the complete *Música Callada* by Federico Mompou.

More listings ...

Add your concert here if it's not in our listings ...

RADOJKOVIC IN LOWER HUTT



Sonja Radojkovic and Howard Smith

'Early this year when Serbian concert piano virtuoso and teacher Sonja Radojkovic required hospitalization in her native Belgrade, two or three upcoming NZ recitals could not be rescheduled during the South-west Pacific events season.

'To save the day Hutt Valley Chamber Music penciled in a concert for Tuesday 20 August 2013 -- the program: Beethoven Waldstein Sonata, Brahms Paganini Variations (Book 2), Schumann Etudes Symphoniques Op 13 and Liszt's Mephisto Waltz No 1.'

Howard Smith describes Sonja Radojkovic's return to New Zealand ...

ASK ALICE - ON CORRUPTION AND MUSIC COMPETITIONS



Alice McVeigh

'I like the bit where Mr Pridonoff suggests anonymity of contestants as a solution, with judges separated from one another so that conversation, body language and subtle forms of persuasion can be eliminated. However.

'Who knows what history these people have between them, in such an incestuous world?'

Music & Vision's classical music agony aunt Alice McVeigh muses on articles in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and is distracted by building work at home.

Read more ...

Got a classical music problem? Ask Alice your question here ...

NEW RELEASES





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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