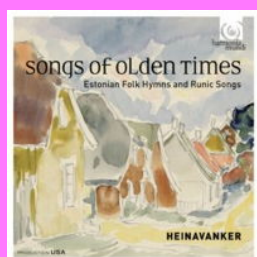
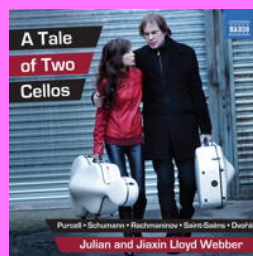
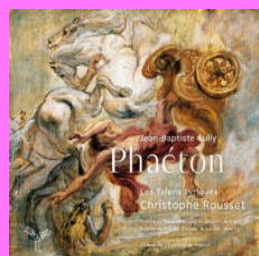
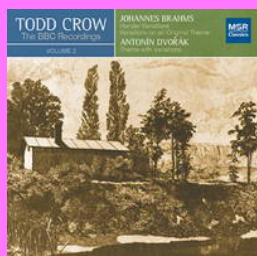
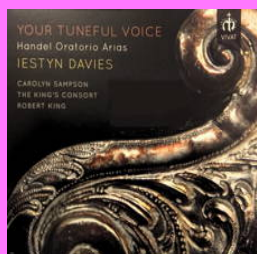


The Music & Vision

Classical Music Newsletter

Songs of Olden Times — Issue 71, 1 February 2014

QUITE SENSATIONAL - IESTYN DAVIES SINGS HANDEL



'To its credit, King's disc (VIVAT 105) contains some less obvious, as well as celebrated arias. Yet it is one of the most famous, "Eternal source of light divine", which launches the 1713

Birthday Ode for Queen Anne with its stunning opening cantilena over held — almost drone-like — strings, and trumpet in reserve, that absolutely sweeps one off one's feet: notably for the phenomenal flowering of its questing long line, the exquisiteness of the diction, and the purity Davies brings to its amusingly adulatory text, very much of its time. A quite sensational achievement.' — Roderic Dunnett is impressed by the latest disc on Robert King's Vivat label.

'Heinavanker explores early sacred music and folklore through the polyhedron of contemporary imagination in harmonia mundi usa's evocative program of ancient runic songs and folk hymns ... Aeons pass and this music retains an enduring, limitless appeal.'

Howard Smith listens to Estonian folk hymns and runic songs (harmonia mundi usa, *HMU 907488*), to Julian and Jiaxin Lloyd Webber (*Naxos 8.573251*) and to Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducting Brahms (Oehms Classics *OC410*).

Barbara Sealock listens to Martha Argerich and friends, playing in Lugano (EMI Classics *5099972111925*). Andrew Schartmann suggests that we listen closely to Mark Isaacs' charming *Children's Songs* (Soundbrush Records, *SR1029*).

Robert Anderson finds unexpected serendipity in Grieg-Finnissy Piano Quintets (Metier *msv 28541*) and much to enjoy in Todd Crow's Brahms and Dvořák (MSR Classics *MS 1487*), Lully's *Phaëton* (Aparté *AP061*), Nadav Hertzka's Tchaikovsky (Skarbo *DSK1125*) and Inna Faliks' Beethoven (MSR Classics *MS 1446*).

Gerald Fenech listens to delectable performances from the Repast Baroque Ensemble (MSR Classics, *MS 1488*), to music for radio and theatre from Benjamin Britten (NMC, *NMC D190*), and to Vasily Petrenko conducting Shostakovich's Symphony No 4 (Naxos 8.573188).

[Browse our latest CD reviews ...](#)

WHEN MY BROTHER FELL INTO THE RIVER



'*When my brother fell into the river* is a cantata, at once highly communicative and dramatic, and at the same time autobiographical in its memorialization of the composer's brother Jolyon, on whose story it is based. The seven movements interweave an objectified yet personal narrative, articulating a sense of loss coupled with life-affirming universal reflective comments centred on the symbol of the holy river in India, the river of the work's title. The work overall is very expressive, full of colour and momentum, as one would expect from a composer as experienced in film media as is Murray Gold.'

Malcolm Miller listens to Murray Gold's first major choral work, plus music by Robert Fripp and David Bedford.

Maria Nockin experiences Candace Evans' new production of Puccini's *La bohème* at Arizona Opera.

Suzanne Torrey listens to Brahms from the Cleveland Orchestra.

Mike Wheeler listens to John Wilson conducting the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, to pianist Sarah Beth Briggs and to saxophonist Anthony Brown.

Giuseppe Pennisi was at Richard Strauss' rarely performed opera *Feuersnot*, and at a new production of Wagner's *Parsifal*, and also looks at options for celebrating New Year in Italy with music.

[Browse all this month's live concert and opera reviews ...](#)

SPONSORSHIP

Music & Vision has received a new article sponsorship for Howard Smith's review of the Naxos CD *A Tale of Two Cellos*. Smith's review **Uncommon Piquancy - Music for two cellos** was published here in January 2014 and can now be read in its entirety by non-subscribers.

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IN THE NEWS



Alia Vox announces the reissue of of Jordi Savall's only recording of orchestral music by Marin Marais. Current Estonian harpsichord initiatives include Harpsichord XXI and the forthcoming Harpsichord Days festival in April 2014. Fabio Biondi and Europa Galante's new release 'Il Diaria di Chiara' is due out on 10 February 2014. Ealing's Music and Film festival returns 12-16 February 2014, celebrating the London Borough's music, dance and film heritage.

We mark the passing of Udo Kasamets, Claudio Abbado, Flavio Testi, Aram Gharabekian, H Owen Reed and Milan Horvat.

Read this news in detail ...

COMING SOON – LIVE PERFORMANCE IN FEBRUARY

A *Landscapes of the Mind* festival celebrates John McCabe's 75th birthday, with two days of his music in Manchester, from artists including the Kreutzer Quartet, Linda Merrick and Aaron Schorr. There's more McCabe elsewhere in the UK: Trumpet Concerto (Simon Desbruslais, Guildford, Surrey), Psalm Cantata (singing day in London), Two Scenes from *Edward II* (Piano4Hands at Luton Music Club) and the first performance of his *Sonata after William Byrd's 'Haec Dies'* (Deal Festival, Kent).

The Julian Jacobson/Mariko Brown piano duo gives a recital at Graham Williams' Music Past and Present series in London. UK-based group Galliarda presents its *A Tale of Two Cities* programme in Cumbria and Boston, Lincolnshire. Askot Tigranyan and the Classical Concert Chamber Orchestra tour the UK with Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi, and concerts in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Leeds, Bradford, Aylesbury, Southampton, Stoke on Trent, Cheltenham, Cardiff and Croydon.

Canadian Opera Company presents Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* in Toronto. Orquesta Clásica de Málaga presents Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* with Martín-Jaime conducting.

Distinguished Concerts International New York presents Oslo's Nordic Voices at Carnegie Hall, with repertoire including newly commissioned music by Norwegian composers. Also in New York, the Orchestra of St Luke's plays Strauss & Strauss ... comparing the music of Johann Strauss I and II with that of Richard Strauss.

View our listings ...

Add your concert here if not listed ...

ASK ALICE - STRESS IN THE FIRST VIOLINS

Alice discusses how first violinists and conductors are those with maximum stress, whether parents should be allowed in music lessons, Wagner's string writing, Fred Sherry's two cello Bach arrangements and post-1945 solo cello repertoire.

Read more ...

Do you have a classical music-related question? Ask Alice here ...



SELECTED 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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