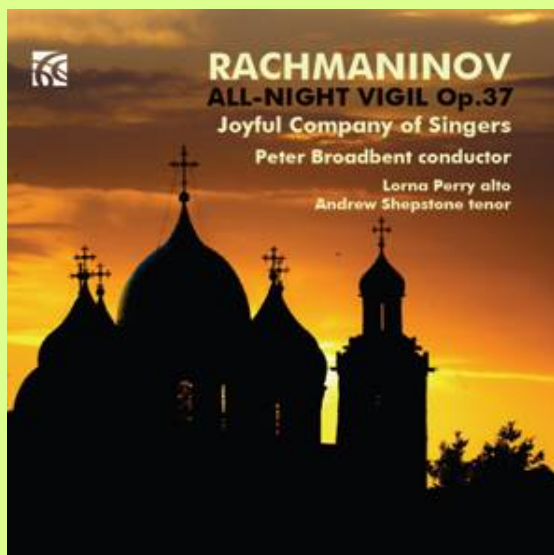


# The Music & Vision

## Classical Music Newsletter

A BEAUTIFUL SAD FAIRY TALE – Issue 72, 1 March 2014

### MARVELLOUS SOUNDS - RACHMANINOV FROM THE JOYFUL COMPANY



'Written in early 1915, the Vigil faced a wartime Russia in a political confusion such that revolution was already brewing, and Rachmaninov's exile from the Soviet Union he detested and from the country estate so soon to be destroyed was not far off. It is remarkable but perhaps not really surprising that the composer chose such a moment to produce a religious work both so tender and powerful as this. It certainly caught the mood of the time, as it had a total of six initial performances to full houses by the Moscow Synodical Choir of the Uspensky Cathedral in the Kremlin. "Blessed art Thou, O Lor" was indeed a brave affirmation.' — Robert Anderson admires both this performance by Peter Broadbent and the Joyful Company of Singers on Nimbus, and also Michala Petri's playing of Telemann on OUR Recordings, and he finds in Michelangeli a sympathetic medium for Debussy's vision.

Patric Stanford is delighted by Eric Coates' commercial recordings on Nimbus and recommends Stephanie

Sant'Ambrogio's Brahms Violin Sonatas on MSR Classics. Ron Bierman finds Naxos' Penderecki concertos disc exceptionally worthwhile. Andrew Schartmann discovers the Steinberg Duo's exquisite performance of Elgar's Violin Sonata, again on Nimbus. Laura Kennelly has no problem feeling music's power in Concerto Caledonia's performances of Robert Mackintosh on Delphian. Howard Smith listens to music by composers in exile (Music and Arts) and to music from Armenia (Blue Griffin).

**Browse our latest CD reviews ...**

### A BEAUTIFUL SAD FAIRY TALE

'On 8 February 2014, the Metropolitan Opera broadcast Antonín Dvořák's *Rusalka* live in high definition to cinemas in sixty-four countries around the world. The production by Otto Schenk first seen in 1993 was as elaborate as a Gainsborough painting. In designer Gunther Schneider Siemsson's first act, the lake was inhabited by the Water Gnome and nymphs surrounded by a dense forest of the kind often seen in fertile areas of Central Europe. Dvořák employed three Nymphs that were reminiscent of Mozart's Three Ladies and Wagner's Rhine Maidens. *Rusalka*'s enticing trio, Dísella Lárusdóttir, Renée Tatum and Maya Lahyani, sang sweet melodies in close harmony.' - Maria Nockin enjoys *Rusalka* live in high definition from New York Metropolitan Opera, and also listens to chamber music in Arizona.





Giuseppe Pennisi enjoys some of the tremendous success of Rome's *Controtempo* contemporary music festival, experiences a special *Othello*, visits Pisa for a new touring production of *The Tales of Hoffmann*, compares interpretations of Mahler's *Resurrection* Symphony and attends a Ravel double bill in Rome.

Mike Wheeler listens to pianists Leonora Armellini and Jong-Gyung Park, to Holst, Mozart and Sibelius from Tasmin Little and the European Union Chamber Orchestra, and to Sibelius and Mendelssohn from Nottingham Harmonic Choir.

Znaider stepped in to conduct the Cleveland Orchestra when Pierre Boulez had to cancel for health reasons.

Roderic Dunnett reports at length on the first performance of Peter Maxwell Davies' Tenth Symphony and other recent performances of British music.

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

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Much-loved American mezzo **Lorraine Hunt Lieberson** was born sixty years ago on 1 March 1954.

J S Bach's third son, **Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach**, was born in Weimar three hundred years ago, on 8 March 1714.

Russian composer **Modest Mussorgsky** was born at Karevo, 175 years ago on 21 March.

English composer **Michael Nyman** was born in Stratford, London, seventy years ago on 23 March 1944.

## SELECTED NEW RELEASES



## ASK ALICE - THE ERHU AND FREE BOWING

Alice discusses, amongst other things, the *erhu* and the advantages of free bowing.

[Read more ...](#)

**Any classical music-related questions?  
Ask Alice here ...**



## IN THE NEWS

Renaud Capuçon's first recording as both soloist and conductor features Bach and Vasks violin concerti  
We mark the passing of Paco de Lucia, Nicolae Herlea, Richard Hayman and Gerd Albrecht.

[Read this news in detail ...](#)

## COMING SOON — LIVE PERFORMANCE IN MARCH

[View our listings ...](#)

[Add your concert here if not listed ...](#)

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