

The MUSIC & VISION Classical Music Newsletter

ISSUE 54, NOVEMBER 2003

* BOTH ANGEL AND DEVIL

One hundred years on, John Bell Young provides a critical appraisal of legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz:

"It was wonderful," he said in the thickly accented English he seemed to value as distinctive ever since leaving Russia in 1927, "but you should speed up at the end."

"But why?" Ms Keene asked timorously. "Rachmaninoff doesn't indicate any such thing in the score!"

"Ah," whispered Horowitz, a sardonic grin crossing his face as if he were imparting to her a remarkable new discovery. "Good box office!"

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/10/horowitz1.htm?0311>

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All Risks Musical - the book every conductor will want to ban

Alice McVeigh finally blows the lid off the world of classical music in a series of hilarious "rules", describing exactly how to succeed in the music profession (or not?). With cartoons by Private Eye's Noel Ford, All Risks Musical makes an ideal Christmas present!

<http://www.allrisksmusical.com/>

* CONFIDENT ARTISTRY - RECORDING OF THE MONTH

Gerard Schurmann: Violin Concerto; Concerto for Orchestra
premiere recordings on Chandos CHAN 9915

'... clear, direct, economical and excellently focussed ...'
- Patric Stanford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/10/schurmann1.htm?0311>

Reviewers Robert Anderson, Ron Bierman, Carson Cooman, Patric Stanford and David Thompson investigate CDs featuring music by Edgar Bainton, Leonardo Balada, Beethoven, Andrew Bishop, Henry Cowell, Paul Creston, Chris Dench, James Dillon, Jason Eckhardt, Brian Ferneyhough, Michael Finnissy, Simon Holt, Herbert Howells, John Ireland, Georg Katzer,

Meyer Kupferman, Elodie Lauten, Benjamin Lees, Mendelssohn, Morley, Michael Parkin, Respighi, Erzherzog Rudolph, John Sanders, Allen Shawn, John Stainer, Charles Stanford, Richard Strauss, Herbert Sumsion, Magret Wolf, Charles Wood and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

Read these reviews, all with representative sound extracts :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/10/beethoven1.htm?0311>

Browse our latest reviews :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/?0311>

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ELGAR and CHIVALRY by ROBERT ANDERSON

480 pages with 93 illustrations

ISBN 0 9537082 5 X

Inspired by the world premiere of Anthony Payne's elaboration of Elgar's sketches for a third symphony, Robert Anderson embarked on a voyage of discovery of the influences behind many of Elgar's major works. This book is the result.

Available now from <http://www.elgar.org/7echiv.htm?mv0311>

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* THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE - PROVOCATIVE THOUGHTS FROM PATRIC STANDFORD

'The questioning of women is uncomfortable. The female mind will undermine the male authority, and yet will not be inclined to follow the same path or pursue the same goals. Composing music is not a process to which most musical women will wish to devote time, thought or energy.'

Patric Standford lifts the lid of another Pandora's box:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/10/ptdifference.htm?0311>

HOW ESSENTIAL IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Composer Alistair Hinton, quick to reply, writes :

'Should we conclude that the music of a "masculine mind" is - or should be - more amenable to better appreciation by listeners with masculine minds than those with feminine ones? Surely not. Can we conclude that there are instead two basic overall kinds of reaction to our music, one deriving from the recipient masculine mind and the other from the recipient feminine one? Again, surely not.'

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/10/difference1.htm?0311>

What's your opinion? We may publish your answer.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/?0311>

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CLASSICAL MUSIC PROGRAMME NOTES

An ideal and convenient way to enhance your concerts and recordings. Malcolm Miller is a musicologist and critic with considerable experience writing for leading international artists and record labels. In addition to mainstream concert fare, he specialises in contemporary and unfamiliar repertoire.

<http://www.concertnotes.fsnet.co.uk/>

* PHOENIX RISING

'Self-consumed, it rises from its own ashes. The end of my journey is Alcester, an odd place for a phoenix, but on a day like this, with the so-called real world all around me transformed and seemingly self-lit, nothing seems impossible. I am about to meet, not merely a phoenix, but a Phoenix Rising, for such is the name of a quartet of young musicians, specialising in the music of the late Renaissance and Baroque.'

Rex Harley meets Phoenix Rising in England's Cotswold country; Keith Bramich takes in the GRM Experience in Amsterdam, and is impressed by Tamami Honma's Wigmore Hall solo recital debut in London; Lawrence Budmen in Miami appreciates Alasdair Neale, the New World Symphony, and the playing of Richard Goode and Bennett Lerner; Malcolm Miller enjoys Nancy Lee Harper's recital of unfamiliar music in London.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/11/phoenix1.htm?0311>

* CLASSICAL MUSIC NEWS

We mark the death of American composer Kent Kennan

harmonia mundi wins the Gramophone Classical Record Label of the Year 2003 award; Iveta Apkalna wins the Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition

Richard Farnes is appointed Music Director at the UK's Opera North; Ralph Couzens settles in as the Managing Director of Chandos Records

Loren, Gorbachev and Clinton narrate on a new Russian National Orchestra CD; New Verdi additions to the View Video Opera Collection

Details of these and other items at :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/?0311>

Send us your classical music news:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/newsform.htm?0311>

* AGREEABLE RESPECT - EDITORIAL MUSINGS WITH BASIL RAMSEY

'Musicians outside this particular specialisation are usually dismissive of what they consider to be "dull drudgery". Yes, it can be so. It can equally reveal music-making of a high quality. There is an unceasing trickle of those who are drawn like magnets to music for worship, and who have a totally different ethos to the fanatics who thunder through indifferent organ music.'

M&V's Editor muses on his long but intermittent association with the land of the choir and the organ:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/10/respect.htm?0311>

Write to The Editor:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/?0311>

* ANY IDEAS?

Michael Letchford is searching for the score and parts to the opera-comique 'A Summer Night' by Australian-born composer G H Clutsam (1866-1951), performed in London by Beecham in July 1910.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/item.cgi?id=300361>

Can you help John Beaumont track down a performance by Renee Fleming?

'A few months ago the South Bank Show (ITV - domestic UK television) examined the career of Renee Fleming. At the end of the programme Ms Fleming was filmed singing a particular piece. My immediate thought was that this was something by Richard Strauss, either an aria from one of his operas or an orchestral song by him.' - John Beaumont

From the English translation of the original German:

'Dark night is coming
Oh please come back

My one true love.
Do not hide your face
Death will not part us
But if I lose you now
I shall always await your return.'

Any ideas?
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/?0311>

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* AROUND THE WORLD - NOVEMBER 2003 CONCERTS

Canada: Vladislav Kovalsky and Gordon Rumson; Penderecki Quartet;
Concert based on legendary soprano Faustina Bordoni; Red Priest

Japan: Berlioz Requiem

Mexico: Saint-Saens, Chavez, Mendelssohn, Faure and Honegger; Zappa,
Schoenberg and Weill

Netherlands: Richard Goode plays Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann;
The Hoofdstadkoor sings Mozart

Romania: Naoko Anzai plays Saint-Saens; Mozart, Tartini, Mendelssohn,
Bizet, Rossini and Schumann

Spain: Josue Bonnin de Gongora, composer and pianist

Thailand: Eva Fampas guitar recital

UK: Leeds Concert Season (including Dharambir Singh and the Hungarian
National Philharmonic); Tony Hodges Memorial; John McCabe; Saxophone,
singers and organ; Grande Messe des Morts; Renaissance sacred music
from Scotland; Mozart and Rachmaninov; EUBO and Roy Goodman; Mozart
and Bruckner; Finchley Choral Society Centenary; Belshazzar's Feast;
Matthais Weckmann; Musicians Benevolent Fund St Cecilia Service;
Thames Voyces; Alexander Tselyakov; Operest: Lithuanian premieres;
Purim - The Casting of Fate; Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra

USA: Music by Beth Anderson, Marilyn Bliss, Margaret Fairlie-Kennedy,
Alla Pavlova and M Zelenai; International Sejong Soloists; Red Priest;
Gayle Martin Henry; Elements Quartet - 'Snapshots' premiere; Nadia
Shpachenko; Kalistos Chamber Orchestra with Yuri and Dana Zurkevitch;
Musica Bella Orchestra; Harmonia Baroque Players

Full details of these and other events:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/concerts/?0311>

Add details of your own concerts :

<http://www.cadenza.org/events/add.php?mv0311>

* ASK ALICE

'Dear Alice, I'm a professional wind player and I'm really worried about my computer.'

Alice McVeigh answers a series of questions featuring singers' eating habits, trombonists' lust, desk partner problems, changing teachers, easy ways of retuning violin strings, traffic speed cameras and handbag snatching ...

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2003/11/jalfrezi.htm?0311>

Write to classical-music's agony aunt:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/askalice.htm?0311>

- READERS' FREE CLASSIFIED SHORT TEXT ADS

Short text ad entry form:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/textad.htm?0311>

- For sale

Finger Finesse Violin - innovative violin-shaped hand position strengthener and teaching aid craneclassical@aol.com

- Recordings

The Christmas Musical Saw & Bells CD 'Hark! an Angel Sings' is now available. www.sawlady.com

A "must hear" "must own" collection of never heard before instrumental Christmas Carol arrangements www.cdbaby.com/letia

Pianist John Rusnak "Startling..don't miss"--EMusic.com
www.emusic.com/genre/3.html EMusic.com

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- Wanted

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I am a classical composer interested by exchanges with good interprets
around the world. ars-dom.com/artistes/musiciens/

I am a composer seeking paid commissions. Please contact me soon
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