

The MUSIC & VISION Classical Music Newsletter
Sponsored this month by VIRTUAL SHEET MUSIC

ISSUE 58, DECEMBER 2004

* A VERITABLE WONDER - REVIEWS OF LIVE MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

'That contemptible harridan who became Alma Mahler was characteristically unrestrained in her opinions ... Zemlinsky was "a hideous gnome. Short, chinless, toothless, always with the coffee-house smell on him, unwashed ..."' - David Wilkins

Robert Hugill reports on Glinka's 'A Life for the Tsar' in London; David Wilkins visits the Vienna Volksoper for performances of Zemlinsky and Schreker; Tess Crebbin spends an evening with the Cello Mafia, and investigates the Pergamenschikow legacy with scenes and music from the first international Boris Pergamenschikow Scholarship Award Ceremony at the Kronberg Academy in Germany; Rex Harley enjoys Jan Garbarek in Cardiff; Lawrence Budmen reviews the Amernet String Quartet's visit to the Florida International University Music Festival, a recital by violinist Aaron Rosand and Claudio Bohorquez's performance of the Dvorak Cello Concerto; Malcolm Miller listens to music by Stephen Dodgson, performed by Bernard Roberts, and experiences a beacon of hope - the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim.

Read these reviews in order, most recently published first:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/tsar1.htm?0412>

or browse our latest concert and opera reviews:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/ensemble/?0412>

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* IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD - ROLANDO VILLAZON TALKS TO TESS CREBBIN

'It all started when my wife, who is a psychologist now, said to me that I would benefit from psychoanalysis. I didn't know what she was talking

about and said: "Why, I don't have any big problems." So her answer was very wise. She said "true, but I see a lot of potential in you that you are not letting unfold, a lot of talent that lies dormant. Psychoanalysis is a good investment that will allow you to grow in any field that you can be good at."

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/villazon1.htm?0412>

Browse our latest profiles and interviews :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/profile/?0412>

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CECILIA McDOWALL - NEW CHORAL MUSIC CD - DUTTON EPOCH CDLX 7146

Ave maris stella; Magnificat; Christus natus est (Christmas cantata);
A Fancy of Folksongs - all recently composed.

Available through the news section of the composer's website :

<http://www.ceciliamcdowall.co.uk/?mv0412>

* WRITING NEW OPERA

'Amongst the decisions to be taken by a contemporary composer contemplating writing an opera are the questions of style, not just musical style but dramatic style, what shape will the opera take?'

A composer's perspective, by Robert Hugill :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/newopera1.htm?0412>

* NOVELIST AS COMPOSER - THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ANTHONY BURGESS

'Burgess's first love was music and the Manchester-born scribe did not plan on becoming a writer but aspired instead to being a composer. For this, he had all the talent if not the luck. Greatly influenced by his parents - his mother was a singer and his father a pianist - Burgess wrote his first symphony at age eighteen and continued to compose throughout his life.'

Tess Crebbin marks the eleventh anniversary of the death of the British writer, linguist, poet, critic and composer :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/burgess1.htm?0412>

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ELGAR and CHIVALRY by ROBERT ANDERSON

480 pages with 93 illustrations

ISBN 0 9537082 5 X

Inspired by the 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.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/item.cgi?id=103991&nl=0412>

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* RECORDING OF THE MONTH

'The hothouse passions of "Il Trovatore" are wonderfully and indeed relentlessly captured in this performance.' - Robert Anderson

Giuseppe Verdi: Il Trovatore - live 1978 recording conducted by Karajan
TDK DVD DV-CLOPIT

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/trovatore1.htm?0412>

On other recordings reviewed this month by Robert Anderson, Carson Cooman, Basil Ramsey, Patric Stanford and Malcolm Tattersall, John O'Donnell plays Bach for Christmas, EMI celebrates the golden years of the gramophone, Albany Records presents the chamber music of Dan Locklair, Edward Higginbottom and the Choir of New College Oxford celebrate the peace of Christmas, Calgary's Land's End Chamber Ensemble play music by Antheil, Takemitsu, Rumson, Gubaidulina, Milhaud and Murphy, David Johnstone plays music for solo cello and Naxos presents the orchestral music of Catalan composer Leonardo Balada.

Read recent reviews, each with short streaming audio extracts :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/ahrend.htm?0412>

Listen to extracts from each recently reviewed CD :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/mvcdrrad.cgi?0412>

Browse our recent reviews by CD covers and details :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/?0412>

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* FASCINATING SUGGESTIONS - MUSIC & VISION BOOK REVIEWS

'The chapter I enjoyed most was the last, where Mark Kroll treats of "Beethoven's keyboard legato", achieved mainly by prolonging notes with the finger rather than the pedal, in defiance of notation but not musicianship.' - Robert Anderson

The Beethoven Violin Sonatas - History, Criticism, Performance
Edited by Lewis Lockwood and Mark Kroll
University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 2004

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/kroll1.htm?0412>

Browse our latest book reviews :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/books/?0412>

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* CLASSICAL MUSIC NEWS

<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/?0412>

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau wins the 2005 Polar Music Prize; Diana Damrau and Ivan Paley win the Toblacher Komponierhauschen 2004 for their recording of Mahler's 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn'; Siegmund Nimsgern receives the 2004 Saarland Arts Award; Yiu-kwong Chung receives an award from the Guitar Friends Association Dimitris Fampas; French conductor Fabian Gabel wins the 2004 Donatella Flick Conducting Competition. Read David Wilkins' review of the competition's final concert:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/flick1.htm?0412>

The New York Public Library publishes a first edition of Debussy's 'Les Papillons'; The Kronberg Academy Publishing House in Germany publishes 'Rostrospective - on the life and achievement of Mstislav Rostropovich.

Harnoncourt's SACD of Bruckner's Ninth Symphony features the first recording of the symphony's unfinished finale; Handel's opera 'Lotario' is resurrected by BMG; TDK obtains the rights from ORF for the commercial DVD release of Carlos Kleiber's 'Carmen'; To honour the 65th birthday of Brigitte Fassbaender, EMI releases a four-volume series of her lieder; Warner Classics launches a new website.

The 2005 TransforMusic competition for composers is announced.

Simon Crookall from Glasgow, Scotland, is to become President and CEO of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The Rome Festival Orchestra seeks musicians to join artists from around the world and play in the orchestra in July and August 2005.

Details of these and many other items at :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/?0412>

Send us your classical music news:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/newsform.htm?0412>

* PROVOCATIVE THOUGHTS - TEACHING

'Teaching can instil confidence and offset depression, but it can just as easily cause both, either by accident or, more insidiously, by design.' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/teaching.htm?0412>

Reply to Patric:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/general.htm?0412>

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A Christmas Carol Symphony

by Patric Standford

Available on NAXOS 8.557099

City of Prague Philharmonic conducted by Gavin Sutherland.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/buy.htm?0412>

* A SELECTION OF DECEMBER 2004 CONCERTS

<http://www.mvdaily.com/concerts/?0412>

Belgium: 'Quatuor pour la fin du temps' in Brussels

Italy: Telethon Classica, with guitarist Gastone Lomartire, piano duo Monica Zaru and Aurora Cogliandro

Macedonia: Borjan Canev conducts the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra in Skopje

Russia: Pianist Violetta Egorova plays Weber, Liszt, Chopin, Dvorak, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Liadov and Rachmaninov in Moscow

UK: Myung Whun Chung conducts the LSO; From Sweden; John Rutter's Christmas Celebration, Baroque Christmas music from Poland Hungary and Bohemia; many other Christmas concerts

USA: Vienna Boys Choir in Loveland, OH; Christmas and Hanukkah at Carnegie Hall, NY; New York Symphonic Arts Ensemble - Wagner and Strauss

Full details of these and many other concerts:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/concerts/?0412>

Add details of your own concerts :

<http://www.cadenza.org/events/add.php?mv0412>

* ASK ALICE - CLASSICAL MUSIC'S AGONY AUNT

'Have you heard that Leon Fleisher is back playing with both hands?'

Alice McVeigh deals with beauty, Christmas, reviews, scams, justice,
the Rolex school of spam and the yay-boo school of journalism :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/11/angelico.htm?0412>

Write now to classical music's agony aunt:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/askalice.htm?0412>

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- Instruments

Read the Guitar Journal - An online guitar magazine -

Eva Fampas' Newsletter www.evafampas.gr/guitarjournal.html

- Recordings

Dark Star music of haunting beauty Soloist Marat Bisengaliev Violin
World premiere recording out now www.spheremusic.biz

Christmas music on the cutting edge heavenly sounds of the musical saw
& English handbells - unique CD www.SawLady.com

- Tuition

Private violin and viola tuition by Vladi Vladova GSMD, BMus(Hons)
in London, all grades welcome! 07950210884

- Miscellaneous

Free websites for student CTs. Up to 5pp, quarterly updates.

Others GBP350 one-off charge. www.lindenlea.net/musicians.htm

Read Basil Ramsey's daily classical music magazine online:
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