

The MUSIC & VISION Classical Music Newsletter

ISSUE 59, JANUARY-APRIL 2005

* NEVER A DULL VISUAL MOMENT - REVIEWS OF MUSIC ON DVD

'Alberich's transformations were not a success: his serpent resembled more a large blackened lobster, and the toad might just as well have been a performing banana.'

Robert Anderson reviews Wagner's 'Das Rheingold', Britten's 'The Turn of the Screw' and Puccini's 'La Boheme' on DVD :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/rheingold1.htm?0504>

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/britten1.htm?0504>

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/12/boheme1.htm?0504>

Browse all our DVD reviews :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/dvd/?0504>

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- Advertisement

Pianist John Rusnak
The Bach Goldberg Variations, BWV 988
Recorded Live in Studio, No Digital Editing
"Reverence and Fire...5 Star" - eMusic.com
Download Now at iTunes, eMusic, Napster and 80 internet sites worldwide
Featured on the WB's 'SMALLVILLE'
Available on Visionmark Records
<http://www.emusic.com/album/10604/10604807.html>

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* DESTINED FOR THE TOP - INTERVIEWS, PROFILES AND TRIBUTES

'There was a time, at the outset, when Early Music had this really strange image: 30/40 years ago, when Gustav Leonhardt, David Munrow and even Nikolaus Harnoncourt were pioneering, there were people who saw it as a "fringe" activity: just groups of musicologically-minded people playing on old instruments.'

Roderic Dunnett talks to Sarah Saunders of Phoenix Rising; Jennifer Paull pays tribute to Ifor James; Tess Crebbin pays tribute to Marcello Viotti; David Lipp talks to James Galway on the occasion of the flautist's 65th birthday; Carson Cooman has a conversation with composer Dan Locklair; Bill Newman talks to piano duettists Isabel Beyer and Harvey Dagul, pays a visit to Lady Evelyn Barbirolli and talks to the Greek-born pianist Eugenia Papadimas :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/phoenix1.htm?0504>

Browse our latest profiles and interviews :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/profile/?0504>

* THE LAST CLASS - MEMORIES OF NADIA BOULANGER

'According to rumor, a student had once complained at the end of her lesson that she didn't feel well. 'You must overcome the weakness of the flesh,' Boulanger replied and sent the student home. It was raining and the student died of pneumonia. Thereafter Boulanger always inquired anxiously about the health of her students.'

Jenna Orkin of wtceo.org met Boulanger in her nineties:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/02/boulanger1.htm?0504>

Don't miss Jenna Orkin's memoir of Rosalyn Tureck :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/01/tureck1.htm?0504>

* REMINISCENT RETROSPECTIVES - FRITZIN' THE LOOKING-GLASS

'Fritz would give a serious, even pompous introduction about the relatively unknown, younger brother of Jacques Ibert (1890-1962), Edouard, known as "Ted". After some pseudo-musicological waffle, he would introduce Edouard Ibert's Divertissement.'

On the second anniversary of Fritz Spiegl's death, Jennifer Paull looks into his witty reflection and recalls musical frustrations and fun with Fritz:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/fritzin1.htm?0504>

Jennifer Paull also writes a triptych of articles in the form of a double rondo, 'Sky Poets Paint the Sheltered Curve to Find' :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/skypoets1.htm?0504>

* THREE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE FIRST NIGHT

'Your style has been noted for its rhythmic energy and post-minimalist influences. How does this effect your approach in writing for choral groups?'

In a new series for 2005, Carson Cooman talks to composers whose music is about to receive premieres. Nancy Galbraith's Requiem receives its first performance on 10 April 2005:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/galbraith.htm?0504>

Browse all Cooman's Three Questions features:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/3q/?0504>

Here are some of the other April 2005 concerts covered in our pages:

Armenia: Alan Hovhaness Chamber Orchestra - Rumson, Hovhaness, Sibelius and Sakoyan.

Denmark: 'Maria de Buenos Aires' in Copenhagen

France: Boris Godunov at the Opera National de Paris

Macedonia: Borjan Canev conducts new works by Macedonian composers

UK: RPO - Walton, Elgar, Vaughan Williams; Gareth Miller, piano; The London Strings - Gregorio Zanon premiere; Canciones Sacrae - Tallis 500th anniversary; From Sweden - Swedish Troubadour tradition; Penelope Thwaites - Hidden Connections; Schubert complete piano sonatas; Tessa Uys Wigmore Hall recital; Thomas Hampson masterclass; Chroma plays Gabriel Jackson; John McCabe at Chelsea Arts Club; Hereford Chamber Choir - Durufle Requiem

USA: Benjamin Lees Violin Sonata No 1 West Coast premiere; Jerusalem Lyric Trio in Baltimore; Quartet San Francisco in New York; Accessible Contemporary Music in Chicago; Nimbus Ensemble - Elliott Carter west coast premiere; America's Dream Chamber Artists; Natalia Gutman, Elisso Wirsaladze and Sviatoslav Moroz at Carnegie Hall; Chamber Music Alive! in California; Mark Zanter - Music at the Museum; The Stravinsky Code; Benjamin Shapira - romantic music for cello - Carnegie Hall

Full details of these and many other concerts:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/concerts/?0504>

Add details of your own concerts :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/concform.htm?0504>

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* VIBRANT PRODUCTIONS - REVIEWS OF LIVE MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

'There was a time - in the late 19th and early 20th centuries - when Charles Gounod's 1859 opera "Faust" was so popular that New York's Metropolitan Opera was often referred to as the "Faustspielhaus".'

Lawrence Budmen reports on Palm Beach Opera's productions of 'Faust' and 'I Puritani', on concerts by the Renaissance Chamber Orchestra, the New World Symphony, Alexander Fiterstein and the American String

Quartet, Adam Neiman, Denis Burstein, Julia Fischer, and on a powerful performance of Viktor Ullmann's 'The Emperor of Atlantis'.

Kelly Ferjutz listens to Desmond Hoebig and the Cleveland Orchestra play Dutilleux, sees Red {an orchestra} in Cleveland, experiences the tranquil stage presence of Radu Lupu, a concert performance of 'Hansel and Gretel' and an organ and brass holiday celebration by Burning River Brass.

Robert Hugill was at 'Die Walkuere' and 'Don Pasquale' at Covent Garden, and 'Le Roi malgre lui' at Opera de Lyon, and writes about Robert Kent's London staging of 'A Child of Our Time'.

Malcolm Miller applauds a new work by Richard Dubugnon, listens to Paul Goodwin and the Academy of Ancient Music, and attends the first concert in the Park Lane Group's New Year Series 2005.

David Wilkins enjoys Bernstein's 'On The Town' and Tippett's 'A Child of Our Time' at the London Coliseum.

Pippa Hare was at the Tudeley Festival's performance of Bach's B minor Mass.

Rosie and Nick Evelegh were thrilled by Canterbury Choral Society's 'The Apostles'.

Rex Harley listens to Ravel, Hoddinott and Vaughan Williams, played by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Manus Carey enjoys the remarkable diversity of the Beethoven Intercollegiate Piano Competition.

Tess Crebbin catches up with the Silesian State Opera of Bytom on its tour of Germany, for a performance of 'Nabucco', describes how countertenor Andreas Scholl is uniting Europe, and experiences a Bavarian 'Magic Flute'.

Bill Newman attends the 2004/5 season of the Kirckman Concert Society.

Maria Nockin visits Puerto Rico for the first ever performance there of an opera by Richard Wagner.

Read these reviews in order, most recently published first:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/faust1.htm?0504>

or browse our latest concert and opera reviews:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/ensemble/?0504>

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- Advertisement

CECILIA McDOWALL - 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/?mv0504>

* RECORDINGS OF THE MONTH

Dawn Upshaw - Voices of Light
Music by Messiaen, Debussy, Golijov and Faure
Nonesuch 7559-79812-2

'... a great disc!' - David Wilkins

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/upshaw1.htm?0504>

Shostakovich: Symphonies 2 and 14: Rostropovich
Warner Classics 2564 61374-2

'... a superb disc ...' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/02/shostakovich1.htm>

The Talla Vocal Ensemble - Punapaula - Red Ribbon - A musical journey
around the Baltic Sea. Finlandia Records 2564-61484-2

'... guaranteed to delight listeners ...' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/01/talla1.htm?0504>

Bartok Solo Piano Works, Volumes I-V. June de Toth
Eroica Classical Recordings JDT 3136

'... a magisterial achievement.' - Robert Anderson

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/12/bartok1.htm?0504>

On other CDs recently reviewed, there's music by John Adams, Cataldo Amodè, J S Bach, Bernstein, Brahms, Carson P Cooman, Elgar, Harold Farberman, John Foulds, Haydn, Lowell Liebermann, Cecilia McDowall, Mozart, Wolfgang Rihm, Saint-Saens, Schubert, Schumann, Scott, Scriabin, Haskell Small, David Stock, Tchaikovsky, Boris Tishchenko, Vaughan Williams, Wagner and Weinberger. Riley Lee plays the shakuhachi, Nancy Ambrose King plays oboe concertos, Jacob Heringman performs music from the Siena Lute Book and Nytorp Musik presents a

song recital by Malena Ernman.

Read recent reviews, each with short streaming audio extracts :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/adams1.htm?0504>

Listen to extracts from each recently reviewed CD :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/mvcdrrad.cgi?0504>

Browse our recent reviews by CD covers and details :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/?0504>

* IRREPLACEABLE TO MUSIC

'Perhaps the real tragedy of Viotti, aside from his early untimely death, is that despite his enormous achievements in the field of classical music not only in Europe but on both sides of the Atlantic, his modest and unassuming manner often led to these achievements being under-appreciated during his lifetime and it is only now, in the aftermath of his departure, that music begins to understand what it has lost in him.'

Tess Crebbin describes the memorial service in Munich for the conductor Marcello Viotti :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/viotti1.htm>

We also mark the deaths of Sixten Ehrling, Lazar Berman, Victoria de los Angeles and Felix Aprahamian.

The 47th annual Grammy Awards are announced.

Stanislav Skrowaczewski receives the McKnight Award.

Daniel Harding becomes music director of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and David Handel gains the same post with the Orquesta Sinfonica UN Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina. Dawn Upshaw is appointed professor at Bard College Conservatory of Music.

Haydn Trio Eisenstadt to record all of Haydn's Scottish Songs.

A new Hovhanness museum in Armenia - call for materials.

The University of Amsterdam invites you to take part in a listening experiment.

Warner Classics announces its spring new releases.

The Vasari Singers marks its tenth anniversary with ten new commissions.

Details of these and many other items at :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/?0504>

Send us your classical music news:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/newsform.htm?0504>

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* PROVOCATIVE THOUGHTS - OPERATUNITY; ROOTS; SCIENTIFIC MUSIC

'It is still the most lavish form of entertainment in the west. In some companies, the annual cost of wigs alone is more than the latest top range BMW. So it is worth asking why, at such a price, are so many incompetent new operas produced.' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/02/operatunity.htm?0504>

Reply to Patric:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/general.htm?0504>

Or maybe this will get you writing ...

'The chef aims to please and nourish the body as the composer feeds the soul. But if the chef decides to defy tradition, discard the usual ingredients and create dishes of wood shavings, engine oil, aspirin, creosote and fertilizer, insisting that traditional flavours are outmoded and it is time to eat adventurously, how would we react?'

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/01/roots.htm?0504>

or ...

'Music that requires its listeners only to be thinkers is insulting science and mathematics, which do that job far better, and is an admission by its inventors that they are incapable.'

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/12/scientificmusic.htm?0504>

Reply to Patric:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/general.htm?0504>

Read Alistair Hinton's in-depth reply :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/01/scientific1.htm?0504>

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* ASK ALICE - CLASSICAL MUSIC'S AGONY AUNT

'I'm in a chamber orchestra playing first violin and there's this aged second violin who is just so mean to me. She's about 78 and she's in love with our youthful conductor'

Alice McVeigh sorts out problems amongst the orchestral ranks and with practising and counting, and encounters inner voices, Swingin' Samson, white witches, disfunctionality and bad advice, and throws brass players and conductors into the sin bin ... She also reviews Renee Fleming's book 'The Inner Voice - The Making of a Singer', and 'La Clemenza di Tito' at English National Opera :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/miller.htm?0504>

Write now to classical music's agony aunt:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/askalice.htm?0504>

- EDITOR'S INBOX

'A useful and informative web site. It's also the world's ugliest - I presume this is deliberate?'

Another selection of feedback received by M&V Editor Basil Ramsey:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/inbox13.htm>

Have your say:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/general.htm?0504>

- OTHER ARTICLES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Armenian Music in America, by Gordon Rumson

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/03/armenia.htm?0504>

Editorial Musings with Basil Ramsey. Fresh starts

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/02/freshstarts.htm?0504>

What is the English National Opera For? by Robert Hugill

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/01/eno1.htm?0504>

Editorial Musings with Basil Ramsey. Do we understand 'normality'?

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/12/normality.php?0504>

Remarkable diversity at the British Composer Awards, by Robert Hugill

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2004/12/british.htm?0504>

- READERS' FREE CLASSIFIED SHORT TEXT ADS

Short text ad entry form:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/textad.htm?0504>

- Instruments

Brass instruments wanted for use in an African school.

www.mvdaily.com/news/item.cgi?id=300571

- Recordings

New Tertian Recordings releases CD of contemporary classical music,
Resonance: Chamber Works-Volume I. www.newtertianrecordings.com

4CDMusic.com Large selection of major label, indie and import music CDs
www.4cdmusic.com

- Services

Creative writing and web design for young professionals, small
businesses, arts organisations etc www.canadianartsnet.com

- Travel

Ensemble Tours arranges trips for choirs, orchestras and bands -
especially to Scotland and Ireland. [chris AT ensembletours.co.uk](mailto:chris@ensembletours.co.uk)

- Tuition

Private flute lessons in Miami, USA \$10, first lesson free
Elizabeth School of Music [+1 \(305\) 559 1980](tel:+13055591980)

- Wanted

Manhattan gigs for classical guitarist. Team up with flute, violin etc
Grad from RCM of Toronto [hetheringtonstudios AT hotmail.com](mailto:hetheringtonstudios@hotmail.com)

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