

The MUSIC & VISION Classical Music Newsletter

ISSUE 60, MAY-SEPTEMBER 2005

* SANITY TO INSANITY - REVIEWS OF LIVE CONCERTS AND OPERA

'"The Fall of the House of Usher" is full of atmosphere and un-earthly impressions, even when it is just words on a piece of paper. Edgar Allan Poe's masterpiece of a short story has produced spine-tingling chills in readers - or listeners - for more than 150 years. Now, add in another element, music. But not just any music ...'

<http://www.mvdaily.com/ensemble/?0509>

Kelly Ferjutz reviews Philip Glass's opera, Rossini's 'The Barber of Seville' and Bock and Harnick's 'She Loves Me' at Lyric Opera Cleveland, 'Die Fledermaus' and 'The White Horse Inn' at Ohio Light Opera, and Pierre Boulez conducting the Cleveland Orchestra. She also covers the final rounds of the Cleveland International Piano Competition.

Malcolm Tattersall reports from the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

David Wilkins visits Copenhagen and recommends Piazzolla's 'Maria de Buenos Aires'.

In the UK, Rex Harley is entranced by 'Hansel and Gretel' at Longborough Festival Opera, and discovers the Crickhowell Festival.

Robert Hugill listens to Handel's operas 'Flavio', 'Jephtha' and 'Tamerlano', to Rossini's 'Il Turco in Italia' and to Donizetti's 'Maria Stuarda'.

Malcolm Miller admires the world premiere of Rami Be'er's ballet 'Upon reaching the sun' in Tel-Aviv, listens to Konrad Maria Engel's recital at the Bayreuth Festival, to concertos by Elgar and Kopytman, a recital by Valerie Tryon, an inspiring concert at the London Handel Festival, and reports on the 2005 Beethoven Chamber Music Competition.

Tess Crebbin tours Bavaria with the local tourist office, witnessing an unusual performance of Tosca, and listens to Rolando Villazon in Munich.

Lawrence Budmen talks to conductor Paavo Jaervi and reviews his recent Miami concert, describes the return of New World Symphony alumni to Miami Beach and attends a concert of music by Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Roderic Dunnett is impressed with Birmingham Opera Company's 'Ulysses comes home' and looks back to last year's Finzi weekend in Ludlow, UK.

Pippa Hare listens to 'Their Majesties' Music' - a concert given by the Choir of the 21st Century.

Bill Newman writes about various pianists and piano trios appearing in London, including Muza Rubackyte, attends Maurice Hasson's 70th birthday recital, a concert given by the London Chamber Music Group and three Kirckman Concerts given by young musicians.

David Braid, new to M&V, reviews Sergei Podobedov's Wigmore Hall recital in May.

Mike Wheeler also joins the team with a review of six summer organ recitals at Derby Cathedral :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/derby1.htm?0509>

- Advertisement

Tired of computer "editing", and "fixed up" recordings?
Listen to Pianist John Rusnak
The Bach Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 on Visionmark Records
Recorded Live in Studio, No Digital Editing
"Healthy Brain Music" - eMusic.com
Top 10 keyboard artist on eMusic Charts in August, 2005
Only available online at iTunes, eMusic, MSN, Napster & Rhapsody Music
<http://www.emusic.com/album/10604/10604807.html>

* EMOTIONAL CONTOURS - INTERVIEWS, PROFILES AND TRIBUTES

'... the experiences I have of life and in life, like so many other people, are the ones I want to inform my music; they provide the common ties between us all, and because of that, I feel they are worth exploring, whether it's concerns about death and what that means, or falling in love, or having to face difficult times ...' - Ian Wilson

Robert Hugill talks to Ian Wilson, featured composer at the 2005 Presteigne Festival, Jennifer Paull pays tribute to Cathy Berberian on what would have been the singer's 80th birthday, Tess Crebbin pays tribute to Fischer-Dieskau at eighty, and Bill Newman talks to Venezuelan-born pianist Clara Rodriguez.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/wilson1.htm?0509>

Browse our latest profiles, interviews and tributes:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/profile/?0509>

- - - - -
- Advertisement

Hear composer Ian Wilson at Presteigne Festival of Music and the Arts,
Thursday 25th until Tuesday 30th August 2005 - Powys, Wales, UK
25 events - special new commissions - Tippett & Rawsthorne centenaries

<http://www.presteignefestival.com/?mv> : box office +44 (0)1544 267800

'Presteigne ... never makes its commitment to new music seem
uncompromising or remote.' - Rian Evans, The Guardian

- - - - -
* STOLEN PROPERTY - PROBLEMS FOR ENSEMBLE XXI MOSCOW

'Is the Moscow Anglican Church flouting Russian law to satisfy American
commercial interests? Is a new darkness stalking the land with wolves
congregating in clerics' clothing?'

Howard Smith reports on church duplicity in Moscow.

Jennifer Paull questions the focus of the lens of musical history with
regard to Cathy Berberian and Luciano Berio, and writes on 'Double
Reed Disorder', '... with most reverent and obsequious apologies to all
them that are heavy-laden with bassoon and shall find not rest, herein'

Tess Crebbin reports on Henri Dutilleux, who receives the Ernst von
Siemens Music Prize, and on how an Austrian music professor has gone
to the dogs. She also talks to Lars Vogt about his late friend and
musical partner, the cellist Boris Pergamenschikow, and reports from
CeBIT, the world's largest computer fair, from a classical music
perspective.

Jenna Orkin of wtceo.org remembers her teaching days at Juilliard.

Robert Hugill muses on Wagnerian sopranos and changing performance
tradition.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/exxim1.htm?0509>

<http://www.mvdaily.com/misc/?0509>

<http://www.mvdaily.com/fun/?0509>

- - - - -
* TIMINGS ... ON THE QUIRKINESS OF SOME OF MUSIC'S HIDDEN SECRETS

'Just two weeks before Tchaikovsky's death from cholera, young
Stravinsky and the elder composer met backstage at the Imperial Opera
in St Petersburg where Stravinsky's father had just sung in Glinka's
"Ruslan and Ludmilla".'

Jennifer Paull investigates The Clarens Connection, The Terminology of Respect and Adagios, and spotlights the years 1788 and 1888.

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/clarens.htm?0509>

- 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.

This and 8 other CDs are available through the composer's new website :

<http://www.ceciliamcdowall.co.uk/?mv0509>

* POWERFUL WORK - RECORDINGS OF THE MONTH

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/page.cgi?type=1>

Rued Langgaard: Antikrist
Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Choir / Thomas Dausgaard
Dacapo Records 2.110402 (DVD)

'... interpreted with total commitment ...' - Robert Anderson

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/antikrist1.htm?0509>

Vivaldi: Bajazet (first recording)
Europa Galante / Fabio Biondi
Virgin Classics 5 45676 2

'... absolutely stunning.' - Maria Nockin

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/07/bajazet1.htm?0509>

Lukas Ligeti: Mystery System
Tzadik TZ 7099

'... the playing, by the Amadinda Percussion Group, is dazzling.'
- Malcolm Tattersall

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/06/ligeti1.htm?0509>

Karel Husa - Recollections. Quintet of the Americas.
Recorded Anthology of American Music 80571-2

'... delightful discoveries, highly recommended.' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/05/husa1.htm?0509>

Frank Bridge - The Sea; Enter Spring; Summer
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra / James Judd

'... a fine recording of music that has an outstanding place in English musical heritage.' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/04/bridge1.htm?0509>

Other recent DVD reviews include the completion of Robert Anderson's reviews of Wagner's 'Ring' on the Opus Arte label, 'Astor Piazzolla in Portrait', reviewed by David Wilkins, Handel's 'Giulio Cesare' live from the Sydney Opera House, and Wagner's 'Parsifal', all illustrated with sounds, pictures and video clips.

Read all the DVD reviews, most recent first :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/goetterdaemmerung1.htm?0509>

Browse all our DVD reviews :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/dvd/?0509>

We've also published many other CD reviews, all illustrated with soundbytes. Read the most recent reviews :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/baker1.htm?0509>

Listen to soundbytes from each recently reviewed CD and DVD :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/mvcdrrad.cgi?0509>

Browse our recent reviews by CD covers and details :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/cdbrowse/?0509>

- Advertisement

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/>

* CLASSICAL MUSIC NEWS

We mark the deaths of Carla Wood, Edward Heath, Carlo Maria Giulini, David Diamond, George Rochberg, Nikolaus Lahusen, Gordon Shaw, Robert Farnon, Alexander Brott, Moura Lympany and Gwydion Brooke.

Marin Alsop is to be the next music director of the Baltimore Symphony (see below).

Nikolaus Harnoncourt wins the 2005 Kyoto Prize for arts and philosophy. Claudio Abbado becomes an honorary citizen of Lucerne.

Chu-Fang Huang wins the Cleveland International Piano Competition. Michael Hirsch wins the Busoni Composition Prize of the German Academy for the Arts.

The New York Collegium announces the release of the first-ever recording of Heinrich Biber's Missa Christi Resurgentis.

We also report on major legal blows to Hyperion Records and Longborough Festival Opera.

Details of these and many other items at :
<http://www.mvdaily.com/news/?0509>

Send us your classical music news:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/newsform.htm?0509>

- - - - -
* ASK ALICE - CLASSICAL MUSIC'S AGONY AUNT

'In mid-July, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra sort of announced the appointment of a new Music Director. I say 'sort of' because there was an immediate outcry of protest, followed by another announcement a few days later that repeated the original one. Goodness! Such a flap. As usual, the population was divided. Women responded 'It's about time!' whereas many men said, 'Oh, no, not yet! We didn't want her, really.' The key word there being HER. Because, indeed, it was a woman who had been or was about to be, appointed to that post in Baltimore.'

Whilst Alice was away on holiday, Kelly Ferjutz bravely volunteered to hold the fort, with a fascinating feature on women conductors:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/women.htm?0509>

Back now from Greece, Alice McVeigh tackles incoming messages of a suprising variety, in her usual inimitable way. Her recent columns also include reviews of the following books:

'Jazz Piano for the Young Beginner' by Misha Stefanuk

'Mozart in the Jungle' by Blair Tindall
'Grisha' - a biography of Gregor Piatigorsky by Margaret Bartley
'The World of Music according to Starker' by Janos Starker

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/08/goldfish.htm?0509>
<http://www.mvdaily.com/askalice/?0509>
<http://www.mvdaily.com/books/?0509>

Write in now with all your questions:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/askalice.htm?0509>

- - - - -

* PROVOCATIVE THOUGHTS WITH PATRIC STANDFORD - PLAYING THE LISTENER

'A crowd of thousands cannot understand intricacy. The messages must be concise and succinct. Musical ingenuity and complexity is a more personal matter, communicated best to an individual listener or a small group' - Patric Standford

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/07/listener.htm?0509>
<http://www.mvdaily.com/thoughts/?0509>

Reply to Patric:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/general.htm?0509>

Or join the debate sparked by Patric's recent column on singing:

'I agree entirely with everything in your "Singing" column except one sentence, and that is a crucial one: "It is a predicament that will not be solved by money." - Malcolm Tattersall

'Since singing is so good a thing I wish most men (and women) would learn to shut up and appreciate it in its finest manifestations' - Sorabji, quoted by Alistair Hinton

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/06/singing.htm?0509>

Or maybe this will get you writing ...

'... if we cannot listen without also the need to have our eyes entertained, the craft of making pure music must be as near extinction as grammatical language and punctuation in emails and text-messaging.'

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/05/vision.htm?0509>

or ...

'Now it is easy to know the audience for old music -- they have all been persuaded to the same default format, world wide. But is it

possible for a composer working now to know an audience, know how to write for an audience, on such a vast scale?'

<http://www.mvdaily.com/articles/2005/04/audience.htm?0509>

Reply to Patric:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/general.htm?0509>

- - - - -
* SEPTEMBER WEBCASTS, OPERAS, FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS

Webcast: Wagner's 'Goetterdaemmerung' from Seattle Opera on King FM

Belgium: 'Die Zauberflote' and Fine Arts Brass at KlaraFestival (Brussels)

Bulgaria: Raina Kabaivanska masterclass in opera singing (Sofia)

Estonia: Bach concertos for one and two harpsichords (Tallinn and Parnu)

Finland: Bellini's 'Norma', Rossini's 'The Barber of Seville' and Puccini's 'Madame Butterfly' and 'Manon Lescaut' in Helsinki

France: Paul Hindemith's 'Cardillac' at Paris Opera

Germany: Organ Festival Fugato in Bad Homburg; Kronberg Academy Cello Festival; Julian Arp recital; Gustavo Dudamel - The Power of Music

Ireland: Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra on tour - Debussy and Brahms

Japan: Bach in Kobe and Tokyo - Bach Collegium Japan and Masaaki Suzuki; Yundi Li plays Mozart, Schumann, Chopin and Liszt; Bavarian State Opera Chorus and Orchestra - Mahler 3

Malta: Independence Day Concert; A night with Lloyd Webber (Valletta)

Netherlands: Gergiev Festival Rotterdam

New Zealand: NZSO in Wellington, Palmerston North, Napier and Auckland; NGC Wellington Sinfonia play Dvorak, Beethoven and Shostakovich

UK: Andrew Benson-Wilson plays Frescobaldi; Hereford Cathedral gala organ concerts; James Lisney at Wigmore Hall; Opera South East; Mozart Requiem (Manchester); Blenheim Music Circle

USA: Ton Koopman Young Artists Concert (New York); 2005 World Festival for Sacred Music (Los Angeles); St Petersburg Philharmonic - Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky

Full details of these and many other concerts:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/concerts/?0509>

Add details of your own concerts :

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/concform.htm?0509>

- - - - -

- READERS' CLASSIFIED SHORT TEXT ADS

Short text ad entry form:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/textad.htm?0509>

- Events

Mostly Mozart Festival 2005 with Renee Fleming, Till Fellner,
Stephen Hough and more! +1 212 875 5766

Jeffrey Phillip Smith, piano 04/06 Clementi/Schumann/Fabbro/Prokofiev
Walter Hall, University of Toronto performanceatuoft AT hotmail.com

- For Sale

1880 Steinway upright piano. Restrung, refurbished action,
lovely case. 4,000 pounds carroll DOT turner AT ukgateway.net

- Services

Programme/CD notes. Professional writer, over 15 years' experience.
Lively, informative, no jargon. mike AT musicadd.fsnet DOT co.uk

Cadenza String Quartet - available to play for weddings, etc. in the
Ottawa, ON area info AT cadenzastrings DOT com

- Miscellaneous

English composer seeks commissions I have composed many scores
in many different genres. healinggrays28 AT hotmail.com

- - - - -

Read Basil Ramsey's online classical music magazine, every day:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/?0509>

If you enjoy Music & Vision, please make a donation:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/donate.htm?0509>

Advertise here:

<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/ads.htm?0509>

Contact us via various online forms to help us make a quick response:
<http://www.mvdaily.com/contact/?0509>