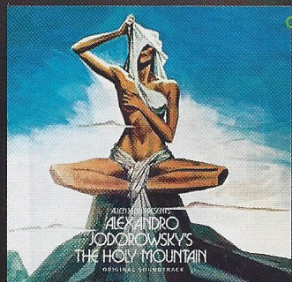


This weirdly fascinating and surprisingly rewarding dual-format release (CD and vinyl) is a set of pieces improvised on the spot by pianist Christopher Tarnow and thereminist Carolina Eyck. Those already familiar with the Theremin's eerie sound (often used to create unworldly music in sci-fi movies) will hear that the pieces developed by Tarnow and Eyck bear no resemblance to that stereotype, though the sounds in *A Whale in Love* do actually bear a

resemblance to some hump-backed whale sounds, but the interaction between Eyck and Tarnow results in a thing of true beauty. Eyck is able to extract gorgeous and unpredictable sounds from her instrument. This talented duo is performing in a wholly unusual and one-of-a-kind genre. I was surprised with the pleasant, somewhat 'new age' feel of this release and I think you will be too.

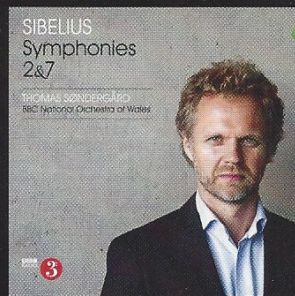
Alexandro Jodorowsky | The Holy Mountain | abkco records/Real Gone Music RGM-0301



Partly due to the success of the amazing documentary '*Jodorowsky's Dune*', Chilean cult filmmaker Alejandro Jodorowsky has gained much attention. Following up on the vinyl release of the soundtrack music to his original big hit *El Topo*, abkco has here mastered the original soundtracks of both Jodorowsky's next film back then, as well as that of his recent film '*The Dance of Reality*.' This is the first time both have been released on vinyl, with the mastering done

by Joe Yannece and Carl Rowatti at Trutone Mastering. The double-vinyl album of the 1973 film has plenty of space for stills from the production, and many quotes from Jodorowsky himself who, as in the *Dune* documentary, is always a kick to see or hear expressing himself. He engaged Frangipane and wild jazzman Don Cherry to help him create this almost stream-of-consciousness score.

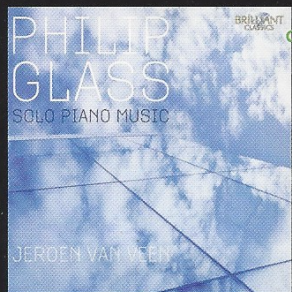
Sibelius | Symphonies Nos. 2 & 7 | BBC Nat Orch of Wales | Sondergard | Linn MC SACD LC11615



Linn Records brings us this thrilling SACD of the Sibelius 2nd and 7th Symphonies in rich 5.1-channel sound. The 2nd Symphony is probably the most familiar, and for good reason. It is rich with emotion and orchestral colour and is a compelling musical experience. My previous favourite version was the LSO under Colin Davis: this version has more raw energy and exuberance. Many critics think Sibelius' 7th

symphony is the composer's most unique and lasting accomplishment. This disc presents it with a beautifully wide soundstage, superb definition of the instruments, all wrapped up in a beautifully musical recording that really lets the unique sound of Sibelius enter your listening room. The surrounds are subdued with a hint of room ambience, and there is a very sharp front image. Highly recommended!

Philip Glass | Mad Rush | Jeroen van Veen | Brilliant Classics (2LPs)



*Mad Rush* was originally created for a visit by the Dalai Lama to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and needed to be 'of indeterminate length', since the Dali Lama's arrival time was uncertain. Some of the eleven pieces on this disc show the pronounced minimalist tendencies of the composer, while others open up with a greater variety of compositional styles. The 30-minute-long *How Now* was one of the first

works Glass wrote for his ensemble back in 1968. *Metamorphosis* was incidental music for a production of the play by Kafka. The second LP closes with the soundtrack for the 1985 film *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*. Jeroen van Veen is a minimalist composer himself and he plays Glass well, but Valentina Lisitsa's double-CD of the music of Philip Glass is superior music-making.

The Steinmeyer Organ in Nidaros Cathedral | Magne Draagen, organ | Lawo Classics MC



Nidaros Cathedral's Steinmeyer organ, completed in 1930 for the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Stiklestad, is one of the largest cathedral organs in Europe. This lovely SACD gives us this magnificent organ in high-resolution surround-sound. It opens with a fine transcription of Edvard Grieg's *Morning Mood* from the *Peer Gynt Suite*. From there, we are treated to lovely performances of works by composers including Dupre, Howells, Handel and

Nielsen. These are superb performances and the Steinmeier Organ sounds spectacular. The 5.0 recording goes deep but it's the surround channels that really make this recording sound so wonderful. In stereo everything folds forward and the effect of the church's acoustics, with its five-second reverb time, is lost. The dynamic range is extremely wide, so your audio system will get a workout.

Mercury Living Presence | Universal Music Classics (6 LPs) 478 8058



This is a magnificent package for turntable fans. Universal has selected six of the recordings made by the Mercury Living Presence team during its heyday and remastered brand-new 180g vinyl LPs in a lovely limited-edition box set. It includes the mono session from 1954 of Respighi's *Roman Festivals* of which Mercury was very proud, and understandably so. It was before C. Robert Fine developed the three-mic system Mercury used for nearly all of their future recordings. A

single Neumann U-47 mic was placed at an exact location in Minneapolis' Northrup Auditorium, and the two selections were chosen to show what a symphony orchestra could achieve in the way of power and variety of sonority. This LP release coincides with the release of the Mercury Living Presence Collector's Edition Vol 3 on CD (The last 53 of 158 CDs).

Audiophile Audition [www.audaud.com]