

BRIEF NOTES

Your quick listening guide to more new releases, including Brahms's Clarinet Quintet, songs and vocal quartets, and symphonies by Spohr and Paine

Brahms Clarinet Quintet

B Harlan (clarinet), M Baillie (violin), M Sharp (cello), J Banks (accordion), J Pissaride (santouri)

Zum Roten Igel ZRI www.zrimusic.com

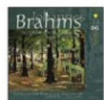


Buyer beware! On the strength of its gypsy affinities, Brahms's Clarinet Quintet is dubiously rewritten with accordion and cimbalom, and seamlessly interleaved with enthusiastically played gypsy and klezmer numbers. (AB) ★★

Brahms Vocal Quartets, Vol. 1

Norddeutscher Figuralchor/Jörg Straube; Markus Bellheim (piano)

MDG 947 1867-6 www.mdg.de



The Op. 103 *Zigeunerlieder* are the main item here, showing Brahms at his most uninhibited and zestful. Colourful performances, excellent sound. (TB) ★★★★★

Busoni Complete clarinet music

Davide Bandieri (clarinet), Alessandra Gentile (piano); Quartetto di Roma and various musicians

Brilliant Classics 94978 £10.99



Intriguing salon pieces from Busoni's childhood; and from much later an ornate Elegy with piano and a nimble Concertino with orchestra. Diligent playing, variable recordings, detailed notes. (AB) ★★

D'Indy Orchestral music, Vol. 6

Iceland Symphony/Rumon Gamba

Chandos CHSA5157 £13.99



This invaluable traversal of D'Indy's orchestral music continues with the inventive *Wallenstein*, delectable *Suite in Ancient Style* and heartfelt cello Lied. (JH) ★★★★★

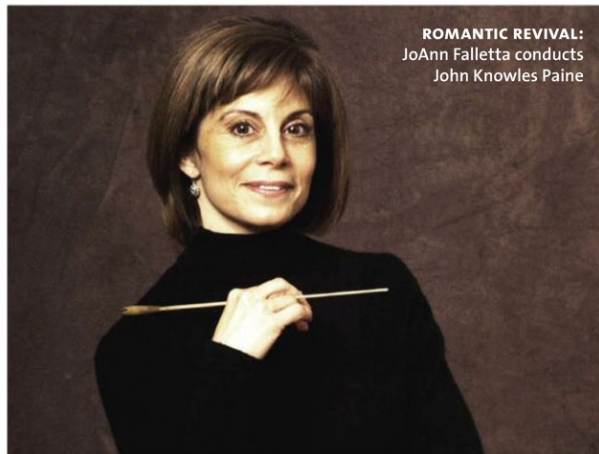
Falla Complete piano music

Juan Carlos Rodríguez (piano)

Paladino PMR 0062 £13.99



A remarkably small oeuvre, but as played here always charming and felicitous: the earliest pieces are entirely Chopinesque, then we hear echoes of Satie, Grieg, Ravel and above all Granados. (MC) ★★★★★



ROMANTIC REVIVAL:
JoAnn Falletta conducts
John Knowles Paine

Jongen Violin Concerto in B minor, Op. 17; Adagio symphonique in B, Op. 20; Fantasia in E, Op. 12

Philippe Graffin (violin); Royal Flemish PO/Martyn Brabbins

Hyperion CDA 68005 £13.99



Philippe Graffin works his magic on these post-Wagnerian scores, supported to the hilt by Martyn Brabbins, bringing vividly to life music that has for too long lain on the outer fringes of the repertoire. (JH) ★★★★★

Kalkbrenner Piano Sonatas, Op. 4

Luigi Gerosa (piano)

Dynamic CDS 7707 £13.99

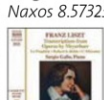


Kalkbrenner contributed to Diabelli's waltz compendium, but his music was designed to showcase his own virtuosity; although these sonatas are well played they never transcend their own derivativeness. (MC) ★★★★★

Liszt Meyerbeer opera transcriptions

Sergio Gallo (piano)

Naxos 8.573235 £7.99



Gallo makes a good case for Liszt's honouring of the operatic originals: the nuns rise spookily from their graves, *Les patineurs* execute dizzying glissandos. (MC) ★★★★★

Paine Symphony No. 2; Oedipus Tyrannus-Prelude etc

Ulster Orchestra/JoAnn Falletta

Naxos 8.559748 £7.99



Far more than an American footnote in Romanticism, desperately playing catch-up with the European mainstream, John Knowles Paine emerges in these devoted performances as a gifted master in his own right. (JH) ★★★★★

Spohr Symphonies Nos 7 & 9; Erinnerung an Marienbad

NDR Radiophilharmonie/Griffiths

CPO 777 746-2 £13.99



Concerto grosso meets the symphony in Spohr's irrepressible Seventh, scored for two unequally sized orchestras, while the Ninth captures the spirit of the seasons with magical enchantment. (JH) ★★★★★

Weinberg Clarinet Sonatas

Annelien Van Wauwe (clarinet),

Lucas Blondeel (piano)

Genuin GEN 15372 £13.99



Pure, colourless clarinet tone doesn't flatter Weinberg's 1945 Sonata, a strong piece with touches of klezmer and Jewish lamentation, nor the transcription of Prokofiev's breezy Sonata for flute (or violin). (AB) ★★

Complete variations on a waltz by Diabelli

51 Composers including Czerny, Kalkbrenner, Payer, Schubert, Rieger and Beethoven

Pier Paolo Vincenzi (piano)

Brilliant 94836 £10.99



Beethoven's 33 come with refinement but no fire; the other 50 are surprisingly accomplished, with Liszt, Czerny and Hummel in fine form, and Schubert turning in a miniature masterpiece. (MC) ★★★★★

For the Wings of a Dove

Works by Stanford, Nystedt, Byrd, Gibbons, Tomkins, Mendelssohn, Purcell etc

The Choir of Queen's College, Cambridge/Silas Wollston

Orchid Classics ORC 100046 £13.99



In *tutti* sections these performances of pieces setting mainly Psalm texts can sound impressive. When one or two voice-parts only are singing, however, focus sags a little. Uneven. (TB) ★★

Mit Vierzig Jahren Brahms songs

Håvard Stensvold (bass-baritone),

Tor Espen Aspaas (piano)

Lawo LWC1079 £13.99

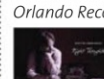


An intelligently constructed recital, though more Lieder could have been included. Stensvold's interpretations are reliably free of idiosyncrasy, if somewhat plain and dour in places. (TB) ★★

Night Thoughts Works by Bennett, Benary, Tutino, Karg-Ekert, Kam, Harvey and Rózsa

Dimitri Ashkenazy (clarinet)

Orlando Records ORO012 £13.99



Close-up recordings of solos including Bennett's well-crafted Sonata, Karg-Ekert's rhapsodic Sonata and much besides, ending with a haunting Scottish lament. (AB) ★★

Sommernachtskonzert 2015

Works by Strauss, Nielsen, Grieg, Sinding, Sibelius and Lumbye

Rudolf Buchbinder (piano);

Vienna Philharmonic/Zubin Mehta

Sony 88875075722 £14.99



The VPO al fresco at Schönbrunn Palace, with a Scandinavian focus. Buchbinder's Grieg Concerto is missable, elsewhere there's some entertaining music-making. (TB) ★★

Reviewers: Terry Blain (TB), Anthony Burton (AB), Michael Church (MC), Julian Haylock (JH)