

# BRIEF NOTES

Your quick listening guide to more new releases, including the Kuijken Quartet playing Schubert, and Neeme Järvi conducting Suchoň

## JS Bach Goldberg Variations

Tzimon Barto (piano)  
Capriccio C 5243 £13.99



Barto opts for Busoni's 'cut and paste' elaboration of the *Goldbergs* while restoring Bach's

original ordering. His hyper-Romantic rubato however can suck the oxygen out of anything in its path. (PR) ★★

## Chopin Ballades Nos 1-4 etc

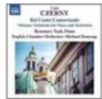
Kotaro Fukuma (piano)  
Hortus 118 www.editionshortus.com



This Japanese pianist brings rich velvet tone, heartfelt understanding and the storyteller's gift to his Chopin recital. His programme includes the Rubinstein 1835 edition of the *Fantaisie-Improptu*. (RF) ★★★★★

## Czerny Virtuoso variations

Rosemary Tuck (piano); ECO/Bonygne  
Naxos 8.573254 £7.99



Hard to imagine anyone wanting to listen to this more than once, or even to more than half of it. Crude piano and orchestra mutilations of *bel canto* themes from contemporaneous operas. (MT) ★★

## Mahler Symphony No. 3

Marciniec (alto); Choruses;  
Staatsorchester Rheinische  
Philharmonie/Daniel Raiskin  
Avi Music AVI 8553325 £28.99



Mahler's biggest symphony gets an appropriately meaty performance from unfamiliar forces. Exciting, but it wears its heart on its sleeve in the *religioso* treatment of the last movement. (MT) ★★

## Rachmaninov Piano Concertos Nos 2 & 3

Stewart Goodyear (piano); Czech  
National Symphony/Förster  
Steinway & Sons STNS 30047 £11.99



Exultantly phrased, expertly articulated and expansively engineered, these deeply felt, supremely natural readings mark out Canadian Stewart Goodyear as a first-rate Rachmaninovian. (JH) ★★★★★

**PROFOUNDLY FELT:**  
Stewart Goodyear is  
ideal for Rachmaninov



## Rameau Suites in E and D

Alexander Paley (piano)  
La Musica LMU 003 £14.99



Unlike pianists who align the piano with the spirit of Rameau, Alexander Paley does the reverse, performing with an overlay of unrepentant Romanticism. Whimsically indulgent, *Le rappel des oiseaux* is strictly for the birds! (PR) ★★

## Schubert Four Impromptus, Op. 90; Sonata No. 21, D960

Sodi Braide (piano)  
Solstice SOCD 309 £15.99



Airy, assured pianism, and a sure feeling for Schubert's emotional world. But the changes of mood in the C minor Impromptu lurch a little, and there's some unsettled choppiness in the Sonata. (RF) ★★

## Schubert String Quintet in C

Kuijken Quartet;  
Michel Boulanger (cello)  
Challenge Classics CC 72647 £18.99



This sublime work is played on modern instruments by the Kuijken Quartet with cellist Michel Boulanger, and with vibrato. A straightforward account, lacking in the central sections of the middle movements the intensity of great performances. (MT) ★★

## Suchoň Metamorfózy; Baladická Suíta; Symfonietta Rustica

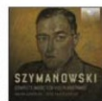
Estonian National Symphony  
Orchestra/Neeme Järvi  
Chandos CHAN 10849 £13.99



One of Slovakia's leading musical lights of the 20th century, Suchoň's engaging post-Romantic idiom fuses Scriabin's hot-house exotica with a Gallic predilection for harmonic allure. (JH) ★★★★★

## Szymanowski Complete violin and piano music

Bruno Monteiro (violin),  
João Paulo Santos (piano)  
Brilliant 94979 £10.99 (2 discs)



Portuguese virtuosos Monteiro and Santos, captured in opulent sound, hurl themselves into the virtuoso fray where appropriate, steering the music's sometimes meandering course with a firm rudder. (JH) ★★★★★

## Telemann Concertos and suites

Barokkanerne/Alfredo Bernardini  
Lawo LWC 1074 £14.99



The Norwegian Baroque ensemble Barokkanerne savours Polish and French influences on Bach's contemporary. Incisive elegance is twinned with verve and that Telemann essential: an engaging lightness of touch. (PR) ★★

## Back to Moog A realisation for electronics and orchestra

Jennifer Pike (violin); Sinfonietta  
Cracovia/Craig Leon (synthesizer)  
Sony 88875052612 £15.99



This blend of Moog and acoustic instruments compromises Bach 'pops' with sloppy ensemble and unyielding phrasing, though the 14 canons lend an unexpectedly cerebral conclusion. (PR) ★

## Grand Duo Chopin, Mendelssohn, Moscheles, Hiller and Liszt

Riko Fukuda, Tobias Koch (piano)  
Ars Produktion ARS 38 530 £15.99



All the glitter and dazzle needed for these lively but flimsy 19th-century showpieces is here, with wonderful period fortepianos in a touch too resonant acoustic. (RF) ★★★★★

## Invitation à la danse

Works by Grieg, Huber,  
Bruch and Winkelman  
Christianne Baume-Sanglard,  
Dana Ciocarlie (piano)  
Claves 50-1501 £15.99



An imaginative selection of 19th-century nationalist dances for piano duet, plus a wry modern 'deconstruction' of the genre, performed with vigour. More fun to play, I imagine, than to listen to in one sitting. (RF) ★★

## Sounds of War Violin sonatas by Poulenc, Janáček and Prokofiev

Maria Milstein (violin),  
Hanna Shybayeva (piano)  
Cobra Records COBRA 0045 £14.99



Milstein and Shybayeva encapsulate the music's war-time provenance and propensity for pouring old musical wine into new bottles with rhythmic alacrity and glowing lyricism, often to startling effect. (JH) ★★★★★

## Surrender: Voices of Persephone

Arias by Donizetti, Verdi,  
Poulenc, Messager, Puccini etc  
Ilona Domnich (soprano), Leo Nucci  
(baritone); Southbank Sinfonia/  
Simon Over  
Signum SIGCD 419 £12.99



Interesting and unusual selection of solos and duets by young soprano Ilona Domnich, with contributions from Leo Nucci. Rather suspiciously booming acoustic, which may contribute to impression of vocal size. (MT) ★★★★★  
Reviewers: Rebecca Franks (RF), Julian Haylock (JH), Paul Riley (PR), Michael Tanner (MT)