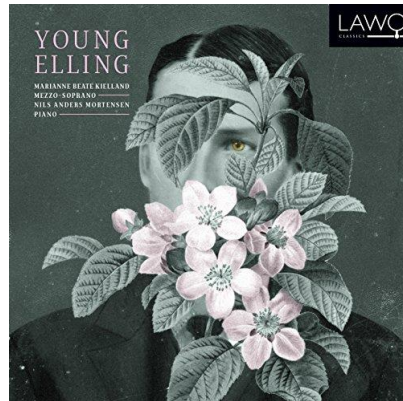


## Want List for Martin Anderson [2015]



Young Elling  
MP3 Music  
Lawo Classics

Like a little kid who tries it on again if he thinks he has got away with something the first time around, I'm going to sneak in my nearly-made-its this year as in the past (don't tell Joel, will you?). Let's do this chronologically. A CD by The Sixteen and Harry Christophers of Guerrero and Lobo (Coro 16128) was up to their usual thrilling standards. Vladimir Ashkenazy's latest Bach release (*French Overture, Italian Concerto*, and other pieces on Decca 478 6773) demonstrated how a major musical mind can find something new in familiar repertoire. *Ostsee* from Trondheim Barokk (Simax PSC1330) presented an exquisite recital of three composers—Bertouch, Theile, and Vierdanck—working in the Baltic Sea area in the 17th century. Another Baltic Baroque offering came in the form of *St Petersburg*: operatic arias by Araia, Cimarosa, Dall'Olio/Madonis, Manfredini, and Raupach dazzlingly dispatched by Cecilia Bartoli (Decca 478 6767).


Skipping the Classical period, we come to some outstanding Romantic releases. The final installment of Leif Ove Andsnes's *Beethoven Journey* (with the Fifth Piano Concerto and *Choral Fantasia*) maintained the revelatory standards of the earlier releases (Sony Classical 88843058862). The third of Goldstone and Clemmow's piano-duet Schubert CDs for Divine Art (DDA 25125), with the Robert Franz transcription of "Das Tod und das Mädchen," and a Hüttenbrenner/Hermann/ Goldstone joint effort on the "Unfinished" cast new light on both works. I had always wondered what Ernst Rudorff's orchestral music would sound like (beyond a battered student performance on YouTube), and the Third Symphony and Variations on an Original Theme (from the Bochum Symphony Orchestra conducted by Frank Beermann on CPO 777 458-


2) revealed a Symphony (1911) that is dark, angry, and powerful—deeply indebted to Brahms, of course, but tightly constructed and passionately argued. Of 20th-century music four releases from BIS brought music-making of a very high order, beginning with the last two discs in Sakari Oramo’s Nielsen cycle—now the one to have (Nos. 1 and 3 on BIS-2048 and Nos. 2 and 6 on BIS-2128); Andrew Litton and the Bergen Philharmonic produced the best Prokofiev Fifth Symphony and *Scythian Suite* that I have heard in years (BIS-2124); and Maxim Rysanov deserves thanks for a wonderful Martinů viola CD (*Rhapsody-Concerto, Three Madrigals, Duo No 2, Sonata*, on BIS-2030).


And now we hit the pay-dirt. A CD of songs by Catharinus Elling (1858–1942) was short measure in duration (43 minutes) but not in loveliness, and it points to a composer whose stature his fellow Norwegians have yet to discover. I stay knocking around in the north to recommend Christian Lindberg’s superb Stenhammar CD and an account of Atterberg’s First Symphony from Neeme Järvi which revealed it to be a far stronger work that I recalled. Piers Lane and Howard Shelley recorded down-under repertoire down under: Malcolm Williamson’s six piano concertos in Tasmania—imagine hearing Prokofiev’s Concertos Nos. 6–11 written 30 years later and you have something of the thrill of discovering this music.


But head and away the best release of the past year was that of Havergal Brian’s anti-war satirical opera *The Tigers* (1917–29), a work teeming with witty invention and, like most satires, with a sobering message behind the ebullient exterior. *The Tigers* has never been staged—this issue was of a BBC studio recording with Lionel Friend conducting a huge cast in 1983. I sat in on that recording (32 years ago, gawd ’elp us) but confess I had forgotten just how good the music is: Brian’s imagination was on overdrive. The “Gothic” Symphony that he wrote in parallel may ultimately be the more important work, but *The Tigers* is also a major humanist statement—and it’s riotously funny, to boot.

 **ATTERBERG** Symphonies Nos. 1 and 5 • Järvi / Gothenburg SO • CHANDOS 5154 (SACD)

 **BRIAN** *The Tigers* • Friend / Cahill, Hargan, Hill-Smith, Gunson, Owens, Crook, Nichol, Winfield, Woollam, Caddy, Donnelly, Herford, Opie, Watt, Welsby, Angas, Shilling, Wicks / BBC Singers / BBC SO • TESTAMENT 31496 (3 CDS)

 **ELLING** Songs • Kielland / Mortensen • LAWO 1072

 **STENHAMMAR** Serenade. *Excelsior!. Intermezzo from The Song* • Lindberg / Royal Flemish O • BIS 2058 (SACD)

 **WILLIAMSON** Piano Concertos Nos. 1–4. Concerto for 2 Pianos. *Sinfonia Concertante* • Shelley, Lane / Tasmanian SO • HYPERION 68011/12 (2 CDs)

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