

BRIEF NOTES

Your quick listening guide to more new releases, including a classic recording by Sir Adrian Boult, plus solo piano transcriptions of Wagner

Alkan Complete recueils de chants, Vol. 1

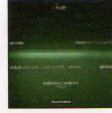
Stephanie McCallum (piano)
Toccata TOCC 0157 £12.99



Fitfully imaginative music by Alkan, only now and again worthy of the non-stop excellence of pianist Stephanie McCallum's playing. (MH) ★★★★★

JS Bach Partita No. 2, BWV 1004 Scelsi L'âme ailée etc

Barbara Lüneburg (violin)
Coviello COV 61302 £13.99



Juxtaposing late-Baroque contrapuntalist and 20th-century spectralist may seem audacious, but a focus on timbre proves it logical. (BW) ★★★★★

Beethoven Symphony No. 7 (arr. wind octet); Parthia in E flat, Op. 103; Rondino in E flat, WoO 25

Oslo Kammerakademi/
David Friedemann Strunk
LAWO Classics LWC 1036 £15.99



Rasping horns add energy to the Parthia. Even more enjoyable is the 1816 wind octet arrangement of Symphony No. 7 performed here with technical aplomb. (EL) ★★★★★

Brahms Symphony No. 4 Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4*

BBC Symphony Orchestra; *Royal Philharmonic Orchestra/Adrian Boult
ICA Classics ICAC 5093 £11.99



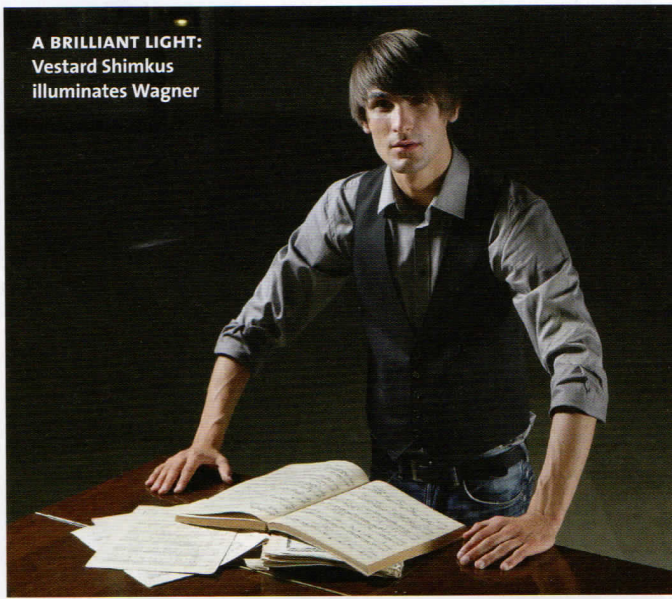
Vintage Boult performances recorded at the Proms. The Brahms has tremendous forward momentum, while the Mendelssohn exudes vivacity. (EL) ★★★★★

Brahms • Schubert • Franck String Sonatas

Tabea Zimmermann (viola),
Kirill Gerstein (piano)
Myrios MYR008 (SACD) £14.99



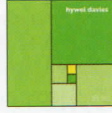
These first-rate chamber musicians play these three late works with a rare sensitivity of understanding and delicacy of nuance. (HF) ★★★★★



A BRILLIANT LIGHT:
Vestard Shimkus
illuminates Wagner

H Davies Descant; End Canon etc

Musicians including Pavão Quartet & London Flutes
Prima Facie PFCD 016 £13.99



An approachable survey of Davies's recent preoccupations, including white-note music. This album features engaging solo and small group pieces with ambient and minimalist elements. (BW) ★★

Karaindrou Concert in Athens

Soloists; Camerata Orchestra/
Alexandros Myrta
ECM 476 4984 £13.99



A beguiling concert by an all-star group performing some of Karaindrou's film and theatre-inspired scores, recorded with characteristic ECM warmth and clarity. (BW) ★★★★★

Liszt Via Crucis; plus other works

Jean Claude Pennetier (piano);
Vox Clamantis/Jaan-Eik Tulve
Mirare MIR 167 £15.99



A happy marriage of pungent Estonian choral singing and French pianism, as one of Liszt's most distinctive works is heard in the setting of plainchant and religiously inspired piano solos. (HF) ★★★★★

Mozart Rondo, K511 Brahms Sonata No. 3 Ravel La valse

Mami Shikimori (piano)
Claudio Records CR 60022 £12.99



Japanese pianist Mami Shikimori is a strong and sensitive player, excellently so in Brahms's F minor Sonata, and dazzlingly accurate in Ravel's La valse. (MH) ★★★★★

Onslow Cello Sonatas Nos 1-3

Maria Kliegel (cello), Nina Tichman (piano)
Naxos 8.572830 £6.99



These elegantly crafted Sonatas from 1820 combine some of the thematic rigour of Beethoven with the ornate virtuosity of Weber. These are strongly committed and highly expressive performances. (EL) ★★★★★

Niels Rosing-Schow Peinture du temps

TM+/Laurent Cuniot
Dacapo 8.226557 £12.99



Five chamber-scale works demonstrating Rosing-Schow's fascination with time, particularly its role as medium for transformation. Although rather forbidding, they repay concentration and are full of unexpected textures. (BW) ★★★★★

Schubert Winterreise

Matthew Rose (bass),
Gary Matthewman (piano)
Stone Records 5060192780222 £15.99



This Winterreise is beautifully put together in every way: interpretative recording, liner notes, artwork – even if Rose's sepulchral bass is never quite as rhythmically rigorous as Matthewman's superb accompanying. (HF) ★★★★★

Schubert Winterreise

Thomas Meglioranza (baritone),
Reiko Uchida (piano)
Thomas Meglioranza 02



Thomas Meglioranza's light, well-groomed baritone gives a meticulously thought-through account of Winterreise, his excellent German and instinctive musicality engaging immediately with the text and the listener. (HF) ★★★★★

Schumann Missa Sacra in C Op. 147; Vier Doppelchörige Gesänge, Op. 141

Marianne Crebassa (mezzo-soprano), Les Cris de Paris/Geoffroy Jourdain
Aparté AP 044 £15.99



The lyrical Offertorium is a high point in Schumann's rarely performed Mass, that the enthusiastic performance is hampered by a reverberant acoustic making the textures sound opaque. (EL) ★

Wagner Isolde's Liebestod (trans. V Shimkus); Fantasia F sharp minor; Spinnerlein (trans. Liszt); Siegfried Idyll (trans. Glenn Gould)

Vestard Shimkus (piano)
Ars Produktion ARS 38 123 £13.99



This young Latvian pianist brings brilliant technique and lovely light and shade to an intriguing programme, including the teeny Wagner's Fantasia. (MH) ★★★★★

Magic Fire and other Wagner transcriptions

Risto-Matti Marin (piano)
Alba ABCD 353 £12.99



Sturdy performance. Marin is very strong in Liszt's ultra-difficult Tannhäuser arrangement. The most interesting rarity is Louis Brassin's Forest Murmurs. (MH) ★★★★★

Reviewers: Hilary Finch (HF), Malcolm Hayes (MH), Erik Levi (EL), Barry Witherden (BW)