

Portraying Passion

Works by Weill, Paus & Ives
Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, et al
Lawo LWCI164



Crystal clear at the top, breathily seductive in its lower reaches, Tora Augustad's mezzo voice is as versatile as it is enticing. Could she, though, occasionally conjure up a little more sass and spite? (JP) ★★★

Reflections

Works by Rachmaninov, etc
Arseny Tarasevich-Nikolaev (piano)
Decca 483 3922



This young pianist sure can play – and his performances of Scriabin, Medtner and Rachmaninov are meltingly lovely. A little more sardonicism wouldn't go amiss in the Prokofiev, however. (OC) ★★★

Salut d'amour

Works by Sarasate, Elgar, et al
Sueye Park (violin), et al *BIS-2382*



If you're going to put together a collection of violin favourites these days, it needs a bit of a twist or personality. Nice though this one is, there's not enough of a golden gleam or magic to set it apart from the crowd. (RF) ★★★

Variations Sérieuses

Works by Beethoven, Bizet, et al
Lilit Grigoryan (piano)
Orchid Classics ORC100088



An assertive and beyond-her-years performance from the Armenian pianist; the titular work by Mendelssohn is a joy, the Bizet and Szymanowski rare treats. (MB) ★★★

Visions Take Flight

Works by Karim Al-Zand, et al
ROCO/Mei-Ann Chen *Innova 016*



An impressive debut disc of commissions for Houston's ROCO ensemble. Plenty of highlights, but Bermel's stirring *Murmurations* and Di Lorenzo's colourful *Jabberwocky* are of particular note. (MB) ★★★

Reviewers: Michael Beek (MB),
Oliver Condy (OC), Rebecca Franks (RF),
Freya Parr (FP), Jeremy Pound (JP)

The month in box-sets



Sweating it out:
Riccardo Chailly
hard at work

Riccardo Chailly, the great symphonist

This month also features recordings from behind the Iron Curtain

One of the world's most successful conductors is celebrated in a new box set from Decca. **Riccardo Chailly – The Symphonies Edition** (Decca 483 4266) charts some of Chailly's finest moments. This is a high-quality box set and the selection is quite vast (55 discs), charting his readings of the great symphonies. His tenures at the RSO Berlin, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester provide the majority of the recordings here. The LPO gets a look in with a disc of Mendelssohn, and the Vienna Philharmonic performs Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony.

Eighteen years-worth of great archive recordings can be found in **Kyryll Kondrashin Edition** (Profil Hänssler PH18046). This 13-disc collection sees performances captured behind the iron curtain between 1945 and 1963, and features turns by some of the greatest Russian soloists, performing with some of the country's top orchestras. From Oistrakh and Gilels to Richter, Kogan and Rostropovich, it really is a who's who of Russian talent. A bonus disc features a rare 1937 recording of Smetana's Overture from *The Bartered Bride*.



Biographical detail is scant, but the breadth of repertoire says a lot

Another musician who successfully managed to work under Stalin's gaze was the pianist Maria Yudina. In **The Art of Maria Yudina** (Scribendum SC 813) we find 26-discs of recordings spanning an almost identical period to that of Kondrashin (and with many of the same ensembles). Though the

biographical detail about the artist included in the box is scant at best (one square of paper), the breadth of her repertoire says a lot.

An impressive ten members of the Bach clan are accounted for in **Bach Family – Complete Organ Music** (Brilliant Classics 95803), and their immense catalogue of works for the instrument fills 24 discs. Organists Stefano Molardi, Luca Scandali and Filippo Turri do the honours on ten different organs – eight German, two Italian – so it's not just a comprehensive selection, but also somewhat authentic. Of course, the lion's share (15 discs) is taken up by the music of Johann Sebastian. If you're in any doubt as to how each Bach is related, there's a family tree on the back of the booklet, though – pretty as it is – you'll need the booklet notes to decipher it.