

Brief notes

Our selection of shorter reviews includes bustling Beethoven and tasty Roussel

Antheil Serenades 1 & 2 etc
Württembergische Philharmonie
Reutlingen CPO 555 196-2



Cinematic works with swagger and sway from Antheil's later, more tonal period; save for 1921's *The Golden Bird*. The German players are on point and the recording top-notch. (MB) ★★★★★

Asheim • Tchaikovsky
Orchestral Works
Ensemble Allegria et al *Lawo LWC 1191*



There's some gorgeous playing from Ensemble Allegria in tuneful Tchaikovsky, but Asheim's *Högssongen* is less immediately appealing. (RF) ★★★

Beethoven
Violin Sonatas Nos 3, 6-8
Lorenzo Gatto (violin), Julien Libeer (piano) *Alpha Classic ALPHA 565*



This duo's playing bursts with lively energy and good taste without short-changing the rawness that gives Beethoven its edge. It's a substantial programme too: the third volume of the complete violin sonatas. (RF) ★★★★★

Berio • MacMillan • Verbey
Trombone Concertos
Jorgen van Rijen (trombone) et al
BIS BIS-2333



Trombonist Jorgen van Rijen is a force to be reckoned with – his scintillating playing brings these three thrilling modern concertos to life. The Royal Concertgebouw is on superb form. (OC) ★★★★★

Bernardi Lux Aeterna etc
Voces Suaeves et al *Arcana A470*



To get an idea of the soundworld of Stefano Bernardi, an Italian plying his trade in early-17th-century Salzburg, think Monteverdi but without the flamboyance. He benefits from nicely nuanced performances here. (JP) ★★★★★

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Philip Glass Piano Works
Feico Deutekom (piano)
Orange Mountain Music OMM 6052



Deutekom combines performances of Glass's solo piano pieces with arrangements of his orchestral works. A fascinating new window onto the US composer's hypnotic world. (OC) ★★★★★

Daniel Herskedal Behind The Wall
Elin Torp Meland (oboe) et al
Naxos 8.574189



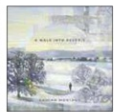
More familiar as a jazz tubist, Herskedal turns composer here for this trio recording of works inspired by his travels in the Middle East. The results are dynamic, engaging, joyful and emotive. (MB) ★★★

Tõnu Kõrvits
Hymn to the Nordic Lights etc
Estonian National Symphony
Orchestra et al *Ondine ODE 1349-2*



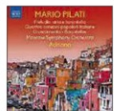
Kõrvits's music is all about atmospherics, which shine through on *Leaving Capri* for strings and *Silent Songs* for clarinet and orchestra. The Estonian National Symphony does its compatriot proud. (OC) ★★★★★

Damian Montagu
A Walk into Reverie
Tippett Quartet et al
Moonshot WUECD03



A meditative walk through the South Downs inspired these soundscapes, with simple melodies and the sounds of birds and rivers. It may not set the world alight, but it's a pleasant stroll. (FP) ★★★

Pilati
Preludio, aria e tarantella etc
Moscow Symphony O/Adriano
Naxos 8.574168



The orchestral style of Mario Pilati (1903-38) was largely light-spirited and folksy. The orchestra clearly enjoys itself here in his sunny Neapolitan world. (JP) ★★★★★

Respighi • Shchedrin
Orchestral Works
Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra
BR Klassik 900183



Mariss Jansons leads live performances of *Carmen-Suite* and *The Pines of Rome* with electricity and pizzazz. Despite a slightly clumsy opening, it soon marches into strong and sturdy territory. (FP) ★★★

Schumann
Piano Quintet; Piano Quartet
Enggård Quartet et al *Lawo LWC 1189*



Stirring, nimble performances of two chamber masterpieces. The quartet's playing is as cool and luminous as the moody cover suggests, achieving a fine blend with the pianist. (RF) ★★★★★

Tcherepnin Narcisse et Echo etc
Bamberg SO/Borowicz CPO 555 2502



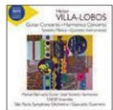
Tcherepnin plunges us deep into the wooded world of Ovidian mythology with atmospheric orchestral writing reminiscent of Ravel or Debussy. This is gorgeous stuff, sublimely played. (JP) ★★★★★

Telemann Recorder Sonatas
Caroline Eidsten Dahl (recorder) et al
Lawo LWC 1181



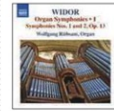
A sprightly collection of recorder sonatas, with plenty of forward momentum, measured breath control and balance of sound. A few lapses in tuning aside, it's a well-produced, reliable disc. (FP) ★★★

Villa-Lobos
Harmonica Concerto etc
São Paulo Symphony Orchestra et al
Naxos 8.574018



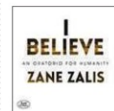
An enjoyable tour of the Brazilian's concertos and chamber works including the lesser-known, winsome Harmonica Concerto. The Guitar Concerto gets a fine advocate in soloist Manuel Barrueco. (OC) ★★★★★

Widor Organ Symphonies 1 & 2
Wolfgang Rubsam *Naxos 8.574161*



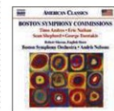
Playing on Chicago University's four-manual Skinner, Rubsam begins his Widor cycle. I do wish he'd stick to tempos, particularly in the quicker movements, but there are some lovely colours on show. (OC) ★★★

Zane Zalis I Believe
Solitude-Chor Stuttgart
Ars Produktion ARS 38 291



A fine live recording of Zalis's account of the Holocaust. The lyrical score and Broadway-style vocals make for a modern, accessible work. (MB) ★★★★★

Boston Symphony Commissions
Works by Timo Andres et al
Boston Symphony Orchestra et al
Naxos 8.559874



US composing is in rude health if this set of BSO commissions is anything to go by. George Tsontakis's *Sonnets* for horn and orchestra is the sparkingly expressive jewel in this crown. (MB) ★★★★★

Compositrices
Works by L Boulanger et al
Juliette Hurel (flute), Helene Couvert (piano) *Alpha Classics ALPHA 573*



An intelligently programmed, sensitively played disc. Add Mel Bonis, Clémence de Grandval and Augusta Holmès to your listening list of female composers. (RF) ★★★★★

Debora's Canary
Piccolo Works by Fabio Luppi et al
Debora Rosti (piccolo)
Da Vinci Classics C00217



An interesting programme, but with slips in octave leaps and a lack of consistency in tone, the performance is not the tidiest. It would benefit from a more colourful interpretation too. (FP) ★