

Brief notes

Our collection of 25 further reviews takes in poems, folksongs and new works

Antheil Piano Works

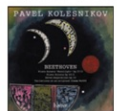
Judy Pang (piano)
Toccata TOCC 0447



Forget Antheil's 'bad boy of music' tag. Played here with character and verve, his late piano works are full of wit, often surprisingly touching and very rarely dull. (JP) ★★★★★

Beethoven Piano Works

Pavel Kolesnikov (piano)
Hyperion CDA68237



Unexpected tempos, but the atmosphere is unmistakable. Kolesnikov finds nocturnal quietude in the *Moonlight* Sonata, and his lucid, thoughtful approach pays off elsewhere too. (RF) ★★★★★

Bloch Works for Piano and Orchestra

Jenny Lin (piano), et al
SWR Music SWR19420CD



Bloch's style is far-reaching, from the laconic Concerto Grosso No. 1 to the Prokofievian fizz of the *Concerto symphonique*. Lin's performances are precise and engaging. (OC) ★★★★★

Chopin • Schumann • Grieg Works for Cello and Piano

Inbal Segev (cello),
Juho Pohjonen (piano)
Avie AV2389



Pohjonen's pianism is an equal partner to Segev's verve in this jewelled selection. This natural recording has a distinctly live quality. (MB) ★★★★★

Hindemith Das Marienleben

Juliane Banse (soprano),
Martin Helmchen (piano)
Alpha Classics Alpha 398



BETTY

This song cycle traces the story of Mary from birth to death. Juliane Banse, despite a slight edge to her voice, gets to grips with every word of Rilke's poetry. (RF) ★★★★★

Ketil Hvoslef Chamber Works

Gary Peterson (trumpet), et al
Lawo LWC 1156



A dynamic and energetic selection of chamber works, part of a larger project to showcase the works of this Norwegian composer. Rhythmic, exciting and delivered with precision. (FP) ★★★★★

Mendelssohn Symphony No. 2

NDR Radio Philharmonic/
Andrew Manze
Pentatone PTC 5186 639



Mendelssohn's Symphony-Cantata, the *Hymn of Praise*, is given a zesty and joyful performance. Manze encourages transparent textures and clean lines. (RF) ★★★★★

Schumann Fantasiestücke; Novelletten

Martin Ivanov (piano)
Gramola 99177



I enjoyed Ivanov's depth of tone and technical mastery, but sometimes wanted a little more consistency of phrasing. That said, this is an accomplished performance. (OC) ★★★★★

Spohr Sonatas for Harp and Violin

Masumi Nagasawa (harp),
Cecilia Bernardini (violin)
BIS BIS2302



Given the two instruments involved, the overall mood here is largely one of serenity. There is, though, plenty of sparkle, joyfully explored by the excellent Nagasawa and Bernardini. (JP) ★★★★★

Stravinsky The Soldier's Tale

LSO Chamber Ensemble, Malcolm Sinclair (narrator) *LSO Live LSO5074*



A vivid live recording of the perennial classic, let down a little by the narration. Though not without nuance, it's borderline hollered in places. (MB) ★★★★★

18th-century Neapolitan Flute Sonatas

Works by Stulich, Calandro, et al
Renata Cataldi (flute) et al
Dynamic CDS7819



Many composers favoured the flute in 18th-century Naples. The sonatas here aren't masterpieces, but they're delightful and played with subtlety and grace. (OC) ★★★★★

And So It Goes Songs of Folk and Lore

The Elora Singers/Noel Edison, et al
Naxos 8.573861



An imaginative programme that links Canada, the US and the UK. Though one or two of the arrangements verge on the twee, the singing is generally very polished. (JP) ★★★★★

Bantock Rediscovered Piano works by Sir Granville Bantock

Maria Marchant (piano)
Somm Recordings SOMMCD 0183



A delightful selection of pieces, previously unrecorded. The light frippery on display is balanced by more calculated offerings like *Memories of Sapphire*. (MB) ★★★★★

Beethoven's Celtic Voice Folksong arrangements

Lorna Anderson (soprano), et al
Gramola 99174



We often think Beethoven only cared about art, but money mattered. His saleable folksong accompaniments are performed with considerable charm. (RF) ★★★★★

Boethius Songs of Consolation

Sequentia
Glossa GCD 922518



The fifth-century Roman philosopher's reflections on life were set to simple music by medieval musicians. Sequentia brings the melodies to life with beautiful counterpoint. (OC) ★★★★★

The Celtic Lute Lute Works

Ronn McFarlane (lute)
Sono Luminus DSL-92225



A beguiling recording by the US lutenist which beautifully balances traditional Scottish and Irish tunes with works by Turlough O'Carolan. (MB) ★★★★★

French Moments Piano trios by Roussel, Debussy and Fauré

Neave Trio
Chandos CHAN 10996



Roussel's rarely heard Piano Trio is by no means overshadowed by the more familiar Debussy and Fauré. The performances balance passion with sensitivity and grace. (JP) ★★★★★

Mortality Mansions

Songs of Love and Loss after 60
Michael Slattery (tenor), et al
Delos DE3548



Poetry by a former US Poet Laureate is translated into a song cycle in a moving tribute to old age. Great articulation and a recitative-like style. (FP) ★★★★★

Musica Nova Harmonie des Nations 1500-1700

Hesperion XXI/Jordi Savall
Alia Vox AVSA9926



Jordi Savall's imaginative programmes keep coming – this one is a lovely collection of music from across Europe. The performances are utterly fresh and full of energy. (OC) ★★★★★

Alexander Panfilov: Piano Recital

Works by Seco de Arpe, et al
Alexander Panfilov (piano)
Naxos 8.573846



Manuel Seco de Arpe's engaging *Anamorfosis* is the highlight of this recital disc showcasing the young winner of the 2016 Jaén Prize International Piano Competition. (JP) ★★★★★