

GRAMOPHONE

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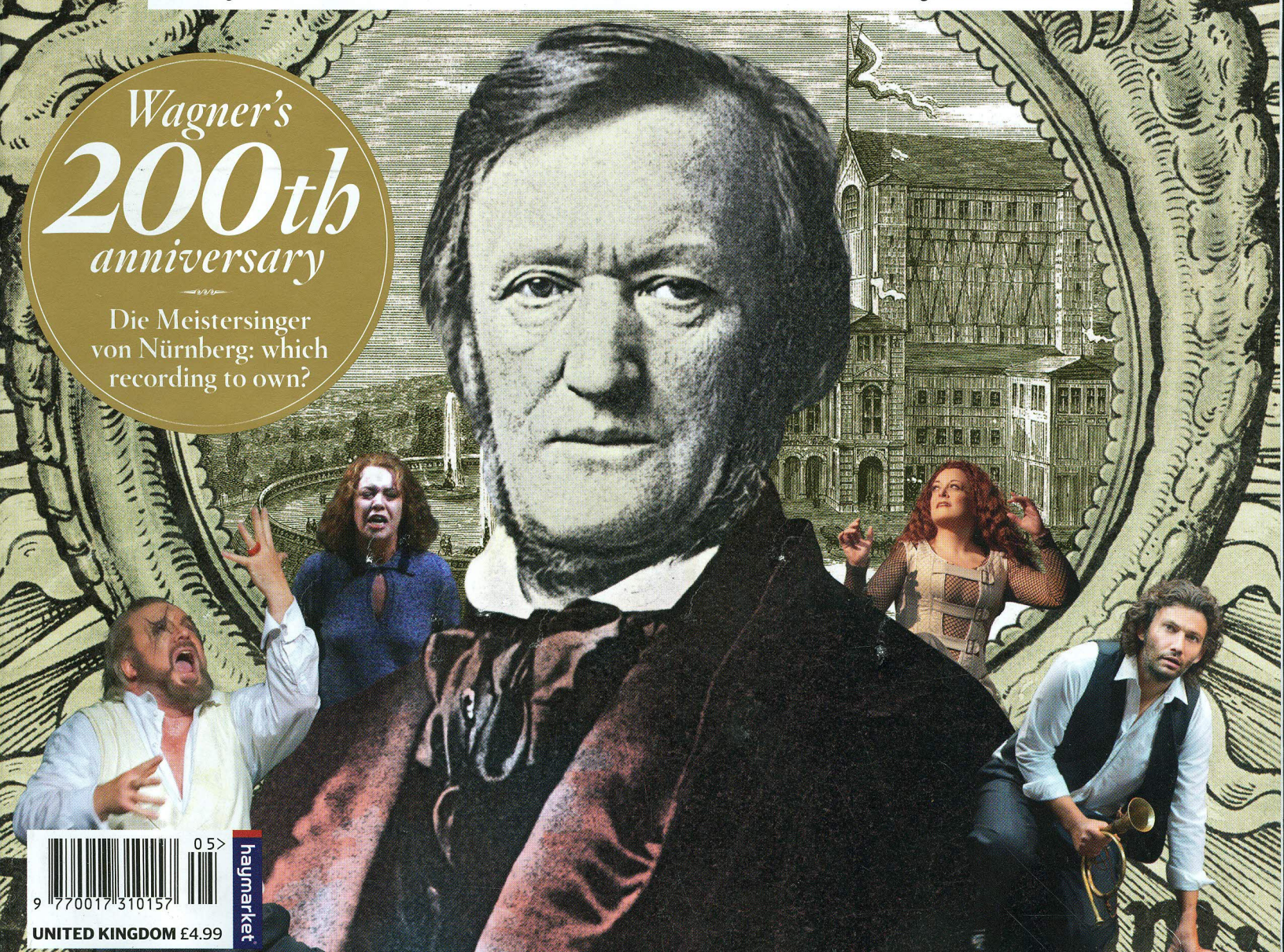
WAGNER'S GREATEST ROLES

By today's leading interpreters

Gerald Finley on *Hans Sachs* • Nina Stemme on *Isolde*
Deborah Voigt on *Brünnhilde* • Jonas Kaufmann on *Lohengrin*
Sir John Tomlinson on *Wotan* • Violeta Urmana on *Kundry and others...*

Wagner's
200th
anniversary

Die Meistersinger
von Nürnberg: which
recording to own?



haymarket

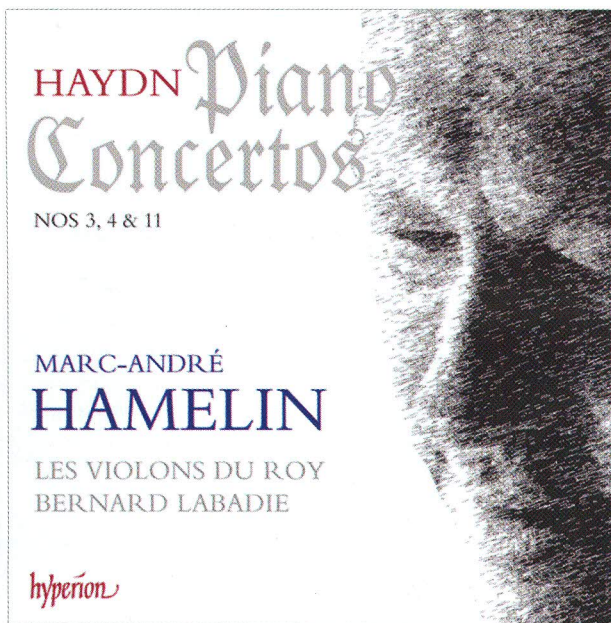
UNITED KINGDOM £4.99

May 2013

GRAMOPHONE *Choice*



Informed by our unrivalled panel of critics, we choose the month's must-hear recordings



Recording of the Month

In the early F major Concerto, Marc-André Hamelin weaves an enchanting spell, approaching an almost Mozartian pathos'

HAYDN

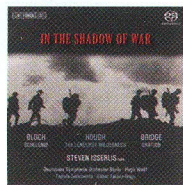
Keyboard Concertos - HobXVIII/3; HobXVIII/4; HobXVIII/11

Marc-André Hamelin *pf*

Les Violons du Roy / Bernard Labadie

Hyperion CDA67925

► **DAVID THREASHER'S REVIEW IS ON PAGE 68**



BLOCH. BRIDGE. HOUGH

Cello Works

Steven Isserlis *vc*

Deutscher SO / Hugh

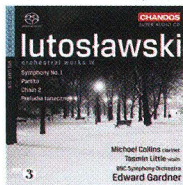
Wolff; Tapiola Sinfonietta /

Gábor Takács-Nagy

BIS BIS1992

'Isserlis's spellbinding advocacy of Bridge's masterpiece has acquired a plangent intensity.'

► **REVIEW ON PAGE 71**



LUTOSŁAWSKI

'Orchestral Works, Vol 4'

Michael Collins *cl*

Tasmin Little *vn*

BBC SO / Edward Gardner

Chandos CHSA5108

'Gardner's recording of the First Symphony with the BBC Symphony Orchestra is easily the best-played version with the most vivid sound.'

► **REVIEW ON PAGE 75**



MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No 2

Soloists; Consensus

Vocalists; Netherlands SO /

Jan Willem de Vriend

Challenge Classics CC72543

'For a fresh, immediate statement that compels one's attention from start to finish, I cannot imagine anyone being disappointed by this new release.'

► **REVIEW ON PAGE 77**



VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Symphonies - No 5; No 8

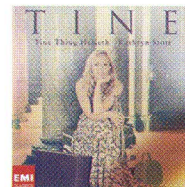
Hallé Orchestra /

Sir Mark Elder

Hallé CDHLL7533

'The oratorical percussion-topped finale sends out mixed messages (an equivocal celebration?) and again the balance of some very varied textures is spot-on.'

► **REVIEW ON PAGE 82**



'TINE'

Trumpet Works

Tine Thing Helseth *tpt*

Kathryn Stott *pf*

EMI 416471-2

'Sommerfeldt's Divertimento shows Helseth's remarkable range: she is as happy with a soulful central *Larghetto* as with the dancing final *Allegro con brio*.'

► **REVIEW ON PAGE 91**

GRAMOPHONE *Reviews*



Reviewed this month: 93 pieces for solo piano; 6 pieces for solo violin; 1 piece for solo lute

ORCHESTRAL 70

Franck from his home town's orchestra; Lutosławski from Gardner; three sets of Mozart concertos; 38 versions of *The Rite* in one big box

CHAMBER 86

Bartók sonatas from Kelemen and Kocsis; Polish music from the Royal String Quartet; Isabelle van Keulen plays Prokofiev

INSTRUMENTAL 92

Comparing Bach for solo violin; Beethoven sonatas from old master Richter and new talent Yundi; Goldberg Variations round-up

VOCAL 100

Britten from New College Oxford; Bo Holten conducts Bo Holten; first recording for Pergolesi's *Septem verba*; Prohaska sings Purcell

OPERA 108

Early recording for Benjamin's *Written on Skin*; Janáček's *Jenůfa* from Sweden; Wagner from both Kaufmann and the Mariinsky

BOOKS 112

Analysing the form and function of music with former Talking Heads member David Byrne; Millington on Wagner

REPLAY 114

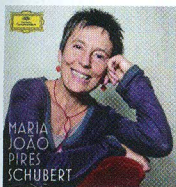
RCA's Living Stereo box-set; Oistrakh plays concertos on Melodiya; Huberman in Tchaikovsky and Lalo; Bartók the pianist on record

THE SPECIALIST'S GUIDE 116

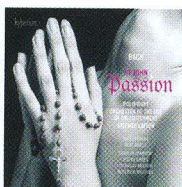
A study in studies: Jeremy Nicholas guides us through 10 recordings of piano études that aren't just useful to play but useful to hear, too

THE GRAMOPHONE COLLECTION 118

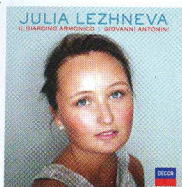
The ultimate song contest: Arnold Whittall listens to the available recordings of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* and names his top choice



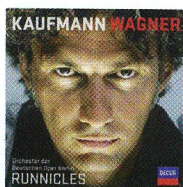
SCHUBERT
Piano Sonatas - No 16, D845; No 21, D960
Maria João Pires *pf*
DG 477 8107GH
'The Portuguese pianist produces such a consistently beautiful, mellow sound that one is liable to be seduced by that single element of her playing.'
► [REVIEW ON PAGE 94](#)



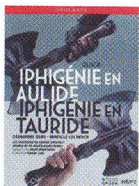
JS BACH
St John Passion
Soloists; Polyphony; Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment / Stephen Layton
Hyperion CDA67901/2
'Layton's reality is about cultivating the focus of each sentiment with supreme corporate executancy.'
► [REVIEW ON PAGE 100](#)



'ALLELUIA'
Sacred Vocal Works
Julia Lezhneva *sop*
Il Giardino Armonico / Giovanni Antonini
Decca 478 5242DH
'The 23-year-old Julia Lezhneva fields a voice of bell-like purity, even throughout its compass, immaculately fluent in coloratura.'
► [REVIEW ON PAGE 104](#)



WAGNER
Opera Arias
Jonas Kaufmann *ten*
Deutsche Oper Berlin Chorus and Orchestra / Donald Runnicles
Decca 478 5189DH
'Mighty tents are already pitched on this summit of early Wagnerian arioso but Kaufmann and Runnicles are up there with them.'
► [REVIEW ON PAGE 111](#)



DVD/Blu-ray
GLUCK
Iphigénie en Aulide
Chorus of Netherlands Opera; Les Musiciens du Louvre / Marc Minkowski
Pierre Audi *dir*
Opus Arte OA1099D; OABD7115D
'Véronique Gens's Iphigenia is touching and beautifully sung.'
► [REVIEW ON PAGE 108](#)



Reissue/Archive
BEETHOVEN. BARTÓK. DEBUSSY
Violin Works
Joseph Szigeti *vn*
Béla Bartók *pf*
Pristine Audio PACM084
'Anyone who imagines that the perfectionist composer was an analytical or pointillist pianist is in for a shock.'
► [REVIEW ON PAGE 115](#)

GRAMOPHONE *Features*

May 2013

PRELUDES 10

NEWS ANALYSIS 12
How will the ROH fare under new chief executive Alex Beard?

CONTEMPORARY COMPOSERS 13
Pwyll ap Siôn champions the music of Gavin Bryars

SESSION REPORT 14
Lucy Crowe and La Nuova Musica record Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus*

MUSICIAN'S DIARY 16
Ian Bostridge is busier than ever this Britten Year

ICONS 18
Hermann Scherchen – an appreciation, by Philip Clark

THE MUSICIAN AND THE SCORE 20
Peter Donohoe looks behind the notes of Prokofiev's piano sonatas

LETTERS AND OBITUARIES 22

WAGNER AT 200: HIS GREATEST ROLES 26
To celebrate the composer's 200th anniversary, we ask the world's leading Wagner singers to talk about the pleasure and pain of tackling some of the most demanding roles in opera. With contributions from Sir John Tomlinson, Jonas Kaufmann, Violeta Urmana, Deborah Voigt, Stig Andersen and others

JANSONS CONQUERS JAPAN 36
Michael McManus joins the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and their maestro Mariss Jansons as they tour Japan, performing and recording Beethoven's nine symphonies along the way

SUMMER FESTIVALS GUIDE 43
Our guide to the best musical events around the world this summer

MUSICAL JOURNEYS 125
A music festival in Abu Dhabi; Vivaldi in Surrey

HIGH FIDELITY 129
Linn's Akurate DSM reviewed; is this the end of MP3s?

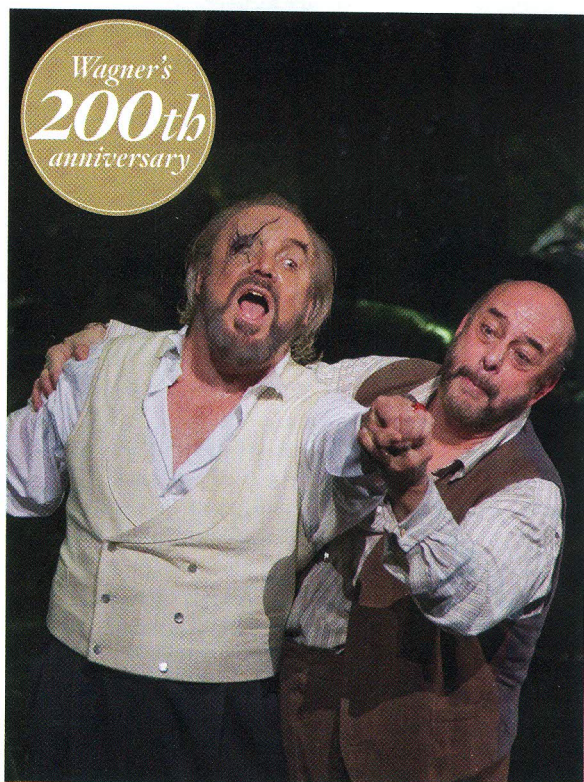
NEW RELEASES 141

REVIEWS INDEX 144

MY MUSIC 146
Philanthropist Ilaria Borletti-Buitoni on Callas, Schubert and talent



14 In the can: Lucy Crowe sings *Dixit Dominus*



26 Pushed to the limits: Sir John Tomlinson on singing Wotan



43 The summer's musical gems: Italy's Stresa Festival

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