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The making of **NEW LOOK NEW FEATURES SAME UNRIVALLED**

Summer music festivals

Your indispensable quide to the don't-miss musical events this summer

Von Stade's last hurrah The great singer on retiring from the stage

Classical fever in Japan How Tokyo offers music fans an unmatched experience

Rare Rachmaninov recorded **Gianandrea Noseda** discusses the forgotten opera Aleko

The thrilling mezzo reveals how she was driven to reinvent herself

The Gramophone Collection Arnold Whittall selects the finest recording of Berg's Violin Concerto



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'This remarkable piece is stripped of its veneer and laid bare before us in all its unsettling majesty and humility.'

Sir Roger Norrington's recording of Mahler's Ninth Symphony, reviewed on page 75

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Your definitive, 24-page guide to the music festivals around the world that you won't want to miss this summer

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Berg's Violin Concerto left Benjamin Britten "shattered" – Arnold Whittall searches for the finest recording of this searing work

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How Japan is mad for classical music; an Istanbul orchestra flies the flag for the European Capital of Culture

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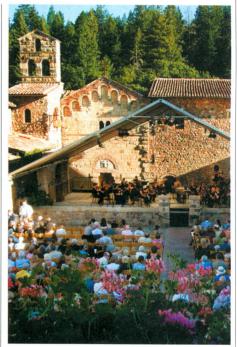
Ronald Brautigam plays Beethoven in Poole; the fabulous Philadelphians visit Shanghai; Daniel Barenboim conducts Das Rheingold at La Scala

AUDIO AND VISUAL

A refined new amplifier from Quad; and is this the time to make the jump to Blu-ray?

MY MUSIC

The celebrated rock keyboardist Rick Wakeman on his passion for Prokofiev



Check out our unmissable festivals guide



Berg's Violin Concerto, dedicated to his "angel" (above) – the best recording is revealed

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THE REVIEWS

ORCHESTRAL

Thrilling new recordings of Beethoven's and Mahler's Ninth Symphonies; buy a digital ticket to a year of the New York Philharmonic

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Emanuel Ax, Itzhak Perlman and Yo-Yo Ma - the Mendelssohn all-stars!

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COVER STORY

