

**Second Thoughts and Short Reviews - Summer 2019/2**  
**By Brian Wilson, Johan van Veen and Simon Thompson**

Reviews are by Brian Wilson unless otherwise indicated.

Summer 2019/1 is [here](#).

With several colleagues away on holiday, the Summer round-ups tend to be short – it's all hands to the pumps for the main reviews. In case you missed any of those, I've included brief mentions and links to them in the index – noted with \*.

I'm sorry to keep returning to some well-worn themes, but I have recently noticed that the pricing disparity which I often comment on has grown, even among the dealers to whom we give purchase links. One recent Naxos release, for example, can be obtained on CD for £7.50, £10.32 and \$8.99 – admittedly the last is a special offer. As downloads, too, Naxos prices can vary widely, with lossless sound from some providers, at around £4.79, less expensive than mp3 from others who charge around £7.89. The reissue of the Harmonia Mundi recording of Scarlatti's *Griselda* (René Jacobs) can be found for as little as £7.99/£9.49 (mp3/lossless) or as much as \$40.76 (lossless), in both cases without the booklet. Shopping around has never been more important.

I indicated that I had given up on emusic.com as a source of downloads of classical and jazz. Rather than give up on me, they have put my account on hold for six months in the hope that they will have got their act better together by then. Let's hope.

An observant reader has noted that I implied in [Spring 2018/1](#) that the Chiaroscuro Quartet didn't play on period instruments. They do.

**Index:**

- **ALBINONI** *Sinfonie a Cinque*, Op.2 - Ensemble 415/Chiara Banchini – rec. 2008. DDD. **ALPHA 486** [53:54] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **BACH** Sonatas for violin and keyboard, BWV1014-1019 - Florence Malgoire (baroque violin), Blandine Rannou (harpsichord) – rec. May 2003. **ALPHA 487** [2 CD 98:54] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- Toccatas, BWV910-916 - Blandine Rannou (harpsichord) – rec. 2005 **ALPHA 488** [76:04] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- Organ Works - Francis Jacob, with Philippe Froeliger and Caroline Magalhaes – rec. 2000 **ALPHA 489** [2 CD 90:52] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- Sonatas and solo for transverse flute - François Lazarevitch, Jean Rondeau, Lucile Boulanger, Thomas Dunford – rec. 2013 **ALPHA 490** [71:42] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **BACH Family** Cantatas - Vox Luminis/Lionel Meunier – rec. 2018 **RICERCAR RIC 401** [66:30]
- **BARTÓK** *The Wooden Prince; Miraculous Mandarin* Suite - Helsinki PO/Susanna Mälkki rec. 2017 **BIS BIS-2328** SACD [73:07]
- **BIBER** Rosary Sonatas - Patrick Bismuth, Ensemble La Tempesta – rec. 2003 **ALPHA 491** [2 CD: 114:47] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **BUXTEHUDE** *Ciaccona: Il Mondo Che Gira* - Vocal and Instrumental Music - María Cristina Kiehr (soprano), Víctor Torres (baritone), Stylus Phantasticus – rec. 2002 **ALPHA 492** [60:57] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- \* - **Recommended** **CARBONELLI** Sonate da Camera Nos. 7-12 - Illyria Consort/Bojan Čičić (violin) rec. 2019 DELPHIAN **DCD34214** [78:18] I defy anyone with the least degree of interest in baroque instrumental music not to enjoy this CD or its predecessor – [review](#).



- **Marc Antoine CHARPENTIER** Vespers for Saint Louis - Les Pages et Les Chantres du Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles/Olivier Schneebeli – rec. Versailles, 2003. **ALPHA 493** [71:37] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **François COUPERIN** Keyboard works - Blandine Rannou (harpsichord) – rec. 2003 **ALPHA 494** [2 CD 131:37] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- \* - **CRAMER** Piano Concertos Nos. 4 and 5 - Howard Shelley (piano), London Mozart Players rec. 2018 **HYPERION CDA68270** [60:52] It's impossible to choose between this and the same team's earlier Chandos recordings of three more Cramer concertos – go for both. Review pending. See also [review](#) by MR.
- \* - **DANDRIEU** Sonatas, Op.1 - Le Consort/Justin Taylor rec. 2018 **ALPHA CLASSICS ALPHA542** [61:43] Convincing accounts of the sonatas of a composer better known for his organ music – [review](#).
- **DUFAY** *Missa Se La Face Ay Pale* - Diabolus In Musica/Antoine Guerber - rec. 2003 **ALPHA 495** [67:05] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **ELGAR** *The Kingdom* - Clare Rutter (soprano); Susan Bickley (mezzo); John Hudson (tenor); Iain Paterson (baritone); Hallé Choir and Orchestra/Sir Mark Elder rec. 2009 **HALLÉ CDHLD7526** [57:49 + 36:28]
- String Quartet, Piano Quintet - Martin Roscoe (piano), Brodsky Quartet – rec. 2018 **CHANDOS CHAN10980** [67:10]
- \* - **FINGER** *A Bohemian in London: Violin Sonatas* - Duo Dorado - rec. 2016 **CHANDOS CHAN0824** [78:00] An attractive opportunity to get to know this neglected composer – [review](#).
- **FINZI** Choral works - Alexander Hamilton (organ), Asher Oliver (organ); Trinity Brass; Trinity College Choir Cambridge/Stephen Layton **HYPERION CDA68222** [74:16]
- **FÜRSTENTHAL** Chamber Music, Volume One - Rossetti Ensemble – rec. 2018. **TOCCATA TOCC0519**
- \* - **Truman HARRIS** *A Warm Day in Winter* - Laurel Bennert Ohlson (horn), Alice Kogan Weinreb (flute); Eclipse Chamber Orchestra/Sylvia Alimena rec. 2006-2016 **NAXOS AMERICAN CLASSICS 8.559858** [75:33] Those who yearn for tuneful and approachable contemporary music should check this one out. Review pending. See also [review](#) by Michael Wilkinson.
- **ICHMOURATOV** Orchestral Works - Belarusian State CO/Evgeny Bushkov -rec. 2018 **CHANDOS CHAN20141** [59:33]
- \* - **Recommended** **Prince JOHANN ERNST** Complete Violin Concertos - Thüringer Bach Collegium/Gernot Süssmuth rec. 2018 **AUDITE 97.769** [63:37] Attractive accounts of music which Telemann admired and some of which Bach transcribed – [review](#).
- **MacCUNN** *Land of the Mountain and the Flood*, etc. - BBC SO and Opera Chorus/Martyn Brabbins rec. 1995 **HYPERION CDA66815** [69:15]
- **MATTEIS** *False Consonances of Melancholy: Ayres for the Violin* - Gli Incogniti/Amandine Beyer – rec. 2009. **ALPHA 497** [72:49] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **MENDELSSOHN** Mendelssohn in Birmingham - Volume 5: Overtures – CBSO/Edward Gardner rec. 2013-18 **CHANDOS CHSA5235 SACD** [74:53]
- **MONTEVERDI** *Lamento d'Olympia; Lamento d'Arianna* (See *Esto libro es de Don Luis Rossi* in collections)
- \* - **MOZART** *The Jupiter Project* - David Owen Norris (piano), Katy Bircher (flute), Caroline Balding (violin), Andrew Skidmore (cello) rec. 2018 **HYPERION CDA68234** [79:49 (CD), 108:05 (download)] I shall definitely return to these chamber-scale arrangements of K467 and the 'Figaro' Overture. I'm less sure about the 'Jupiter' Symphony but it's all very well done – [review](#).
- Clarinet Quintet, K 581, String Quartets K 380 and K 378 - Florent Héau, Quatuor Manfred – rec. 2003 **ALPHA 498** [72:12] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- **PARRY** Piano Trio No.2; Piano Quartet - Leonore Piano Trio, Rachel Roberts (viola) - rec. 2018 **HYPERION CDA68276** [65:31]
- \* - **PÄRT** *Stabat Mater* and other works - Le Nuove Musiche/Krijn Koetsveld rec. 2008, 2016 **BRILLIANT CLASSICS 95807** [50:08]; **JALBERT** Violin Concerto; **PÄRT** *Fratres* - Margaret Batjer (violin); Los Angeles CO/Jeffrey Kahane rec. 2018 **BIS BIS-2309 SACD** [63:41] Both are well worth considering but both come with reservations. [Review](#).

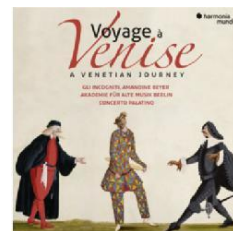


- **SCHÜTZ** *Cantiones Sacrae* Op. 4 - Magnificat/Philip Cave – rec. 2018 **LINN RECORDS CKD 607** [1.53:07]
- **SHOSTAKOVICH** String Quartets 1, 2 and 7 Carducci String Quartet – rec. 2017 **SIGNUM SIGCD522** [59:29]
- \* - **TELEMANN** Overture and Concertos for Darmstadt - Les Ambassadeurs/Alexis Kossenko (transverse flute) rec. 2014 **ALPHA 499** [70:23] Be prepared for this very fine reissue to lead you to discover more of Telemann's music – [review](#).
- \* - **WORDSWORTH** Orchestral Music, Volume Two: Piano and Violin Concertos, Three Pastoral Sketches - Arta Arnicane (piano), Kamila Bydlowska (violin), Liepāja SO/John Gibbons rec. 2019 **TOCCATA CLASSICS TOCC0526** [79:41] If you enjoyed the first volume, you should obtain its successor. If not, why not go for both? Review pending.

\* - **Recommended** **An English Coronation 1902-1953** Gabrieli Consort and Players/Paul McCreeh rec. 2018 **SIGNUM CLASSICS SIGCD569** [81:18 + 78:03] As magnificent an achievement as the four coronations which it commemorates – [review](#).



- **British Cello and Piano Miniatures** – Gerald Peregrine, Anthony Ingham – rec. 2018 **NAXOS 8.574035** [54:26]
- **Este Libro es de Don Luis Rossi: MONTEVERDI, BASSANI, DE MACQUE, TRABACI, GESUALDO** - Ensemble Poësis/Marion Fourquier – rec. 1999 **ALPHA 496** [75:05] See Alpha Collection Nos. 57-70.
- \* - **Bernard Haitink: The Early Years 1: DIEPENBROCK** *Elektra*, Symphonic Suite; **MAHLER** Symphony No.1 - Concertgebouw Orchestra/Bernard Haitink **BEULAH 1PS51** [65:32] Review pending
- \* - **Bernard Haitink: The Early Years 2: SMETANA** *Vltava*; **BRUCKNER** Symphony No.3 - Concertgebouw Orchestra/Bernard Haitink **BEULAH 2PS51** [69:24] While not essential purchases, these downloads offer an interesting sidelight on the early part of Haitink's career. Review pending.
- **The Musical Treasures of Leufsta Bruk III** - Elin Rombo, Rebaroque - rec. 2018 **BIS-2354** [61:18]
- **Ray Noble** and his British and American Orchestras - rec. 1930-36 **BEULAH 1PS50** [70:59]
- \* - **The Organ at Sydney Opera House** – Peter Hurford rec. 1983/84 **DECCA ELOQUENCE 4840351** [53:37] Not the ideal commemoration of Peter Hurford, but it will do as a start. Review pending.
- \* - **Sommernachtskonzert 2019** – Yuja Wang (piano) Vienna Philharmonic/Gustavo Dudamel – rec. 2019. **SONY 19075943542** An attractive reminder of the occasion if you saw the TV or were there. (Also on DVD and blu-ray). Review pending.
- **The Sixteen: 40th Anniversary Collection** The Sixteen/Harry Christophers **CORO COR16172**
- \* - **Towards the Light: RAUTAVAARA** *Missa a cappella* and music by **WENNÄKOSKI** and **LIVORSI** - Helsinki Chamber Choir/Nils Schweckendiek rec. 2014 **ICSM RECORDS CHRONOS ICSM013** [68:10] Very much a recording of two halves, to which I shall probably turn in future only for the Rautavaara. [Review](#).
- \* - **Recommended** **Voyage à Venise: A Venetian Journey** Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin/Georg Kallweit; Gli Incogniti/Amandine Beyer; Concerto Palatino rec. 1998-2014 **HARMONIA MUNDI HMX2908798.00** [3 CDs 3:37:49] This set can be strongly recommended at its new super-low price.

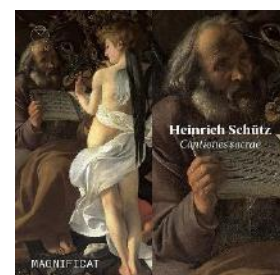


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**Heinrich SCHÜTZ (1585-1672)**

*Cantiones Sacrae* Op. 4 (SWV 53-93)  
 Magnificat/Philip Cave  
 Texts and translations included  
 Reviewed as 16/44 download with pdf booklet from Outhere  
 rec. 2018.

**LINN RECORDS CKD 607** [1.53:07] See also Work in Progress/In brief, [Spring 2019/3](#)



CD from	
	

The *Cantiones Sacrae* are among the lesser-known part of the oeuvre of Heinrich Schütz. That is a little strange, considering that these 41 motets for four voices are excellently suited for chamber choirs and vocal ensembles. The texts are in Latin, so

the language should not cause any problems. As one expects from Schütz, there is a close connection between text and music. That comes off best in a performance with one voice per part, which is also the way Philip Cave has recorded the entire set with his ensemble *Magnificat*. The singers are supported by basso continuo instruments, and although Schütz did not require this, it is a perfectly legitimate decision. Not tenable from a historical point of view, however, is the Italian pronunciation of Latin. Although I prefer the recording by Weser-Renaissance (CPO, 1996), this is a very respectable and in many ways admirable interpretation. The singing is excellent, although unfortunately some of the lower voices are not always entirely free of a slight vibrato. These motets deserve to be better known, and if you purchase this set, you won't regret it. [JV]

## Bach Family

### Cantatas

#### Johann Michael BACH (1648-1694)

Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ [06:25]

#### Johann Christoph BACH (1642-1703)

Die Furcht des Herren [07:53]

#### Heinrich BACH (1615-1692)

Ich danke dir Gott [05:45]

#### Johann Michael BACH

Herr, der König freuet sich [05:39]

#### Johann Christoph BACH

Herr, wende dich und sei mir gnädig [12:52]

#### Johann Sebastian BACH (1685-1750)

Christ lag in Todesbanden (BWV 4) [19:29]

#### Johann Christoph BACH

Es erhob sich ein Streit [09:13]

Texts and translations included




Reviewed as a stereo 24/96 download with pdf booklet from Outhere

Vox Luminis/Lionel Meunier

rec. 2018

**RICERCAR RIC 401** [1.06:30] See also Work in Progress/In brief, [Spring 2019/3](#)



CD from	
	

It is thanks to Johann Sebastian Bach that we know quite a lot about his family, whose members played such an important role in musical life in Saxonia and Thuringia in the 17th and early 18th centuries. We also owe to him a number of compositions by

composers of previous generations which otherwise would probably have been lost. Vox Luminis recorded motets by members of the Bach family some years ago, and this time has turned its attention to sacred concertos and cantatas with instrumental accompaniment. They are different in form, with regard to scoring and especially the connection between soli and tutti. Most pieces are rooted in the 17th century, and are through-composed, with five-part accompaniment. Some point in the direction of what was to become the cantata, as we know it from the oeuvre of Johann Sebastian.

The strength of Vox Luminis is that it is a fixed ensemble, whose voices perfectly blend, but whose members are also able to deliver convincing performances in solo episodes. These features come off here in abundance, and result in a very fine recording which demonstrates the impressive quality of Heinrich, Johann Christoph and Johann Michael Bach. Sometimes I found the performance a bit too restrained, for instance in JS Bach's Cantata BWV 4. Even so, this disc is another jewel in Vox Luminis's

crown, to which Bach lovers will regularly return. [JV]

***The Musical Treasures of Leufsta Bruk III***

**anon** (Den svenska psalmboken, 1695)

På dig jag hoppas, Herre kär [2:19]

Jesu du är vår salighet [1:01]

Ande ifrån ovan [2:11]

O Gud, det är en hjärtans tröst [2:28]

Så skön och ljuvlig [2:16]

**F.I. DE BOECK (?-?)**

Sonata V in g minor, op. 2,5 [10:47]

**Conrad Friedrich HURLEBUSCH (1691-1765)**

Tu parti, idolo mio, Cantata I, op. 3,1 [11:40]

**Hinrich Philip JOHNSEN (1717-1779)**

Kyrko-Musique på Påsk-Dagen 1757 (Church Music for Easter Day 1757) [17:34]

**Pierre-Alexandre MONSIGNY (1729 – 1817)**

On ne s'avise jamais de tout:

Jusque dans la moindre chose, ariette [3:00]

**anon**

Wackra sol, aria (arr Jonas Dominique) [3:50]

På dig jag hoppas, Herre kär (arr Jonas Dominique) [2:22]

Elin Rombo, soprano

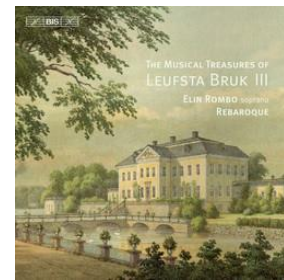
Rebaroque


rec. 2018, Lövestabruk Church, Sweden

Texts with English translations included

Reviewed as a stereo 24/96 download with pdf booklet from [eclassical.com](http://eclassical.com)

**BIS-2354 SACD** [61:18]



CD from	
	
Download from	<a href="http://eclassical.com">eclassical.com</a>

This is the third disc in a series devoted to an important collection of music, today part of the Uppsala University library, once owned by Baron Charles De Geer, who was from the Netherlands and settled in Sweden in the early 18th century at the estate which had been in the possession of his family for about a century. He brought with him printed editions published in Amsterdam, and continued to collect music in his Swedish period. This disc opens with some hymns from the hymnal that is part of the collection (unfortunately the texts have been modernized) and then we hear pieces by little-known composers from across Europe: a certain De Boeck from the southern Netherlands, Monsigny from France as well as Johnsen and Hurlbusch, both from Germany. The latter two worked for some time in Sweden; Hurlbusch later moved to the Netherlands. He is represented with a secular chamber cantata, Johnsen with a cantata for Easter.

This is quite an interesting programme, and I share Göran Forsling's [appreciation of the repertoire](#)). It encourages me to look for the preceding volumes. Rebaroque delivers fine performances, but I find the singing of Elin Rombo disappointing. Her approach is too operatic, and her incessant and wide vibrato is hard to swallow. It also damages the intelligibility of the text. [JV]

**Felix MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)**

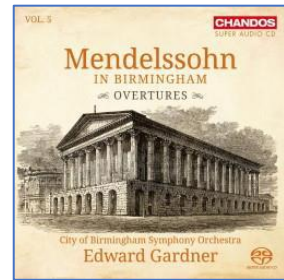
**Mendelssohn in Birmingham - Volume 5: Overtures**

- Overture *St. Paul*, Op.36 (1832-1836) [6:32]
- The Fair Melusine* Overture, Op.32 (1833/4-1835) [10:24]
- Trumpet – Overture, Op.101 (c.1825/6, 1833) [8:38]
- Hebrides* Overture, Op.26 (1830, 1832) [9:50]
- Athalia* Overture, Op.74 (1842, 1844) [8:00]
- A Midsummer Night's Dream* Overture, Op.21 (1826) [11:25]
- Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, Op.27 (1828, 1834) [11:48]
- Ruy Blas* Overture, Op.95 (1839, 1844) [7:22]

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/Edward Gardner  
rec. 2013-18, Town Hall, Birmingham. DDD.

Reviewed as 24/96 download (**CHAN5235S**) with pdf booklet from [chandos.net](http://chandos.net).

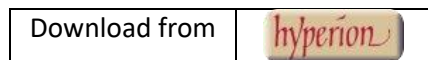
**CHANDOS CHSA5235 SACD** [74:53] For purchase details see [review by Stuart Sillitoe](#): 'An excellent disc of Mendelssohn's overtures, to which I will often return'.



A very fine conclusion to a very fine series of the symphonies.

**Sir Hubert PARRY (1848-1918)**

- Piano Trio No.2 in b minor (1884) [32:34]
- Piano Quartet in A flat (1879) [32:55]
- Leonore Piano Trio, Rachel Roberts (viola)
- rec. 2018, All Saints' Church, East Finchley, London
- HYPERION CDA68276** [65:31]



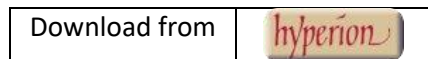
Three colleagues have already praised this – [review](#) – [review](#) – [review](#) – so all I need to do is to point you to the [Hyperion website](http://Hyperion website), where it's available on CD and in 16- and 24-bit downloads with pdf booklet.

**Edward ELGAR (1857-1934)**

- The Kingdom***, Op. 51 (1906) [94:17]
- Clare Rutter (soprano); Susan Bickley (mezzo); John Hudson (tenor); Iain Paterson (baritone)
- Hallé Choir and Orchestra/Sir Mark Elder
- rec. live, 17 October 2009, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
- English text included

Downloaded in ALAC from [Hyperion](http://Hyperion)

**HALLÉ CDHLD7526** [57:49 + 36:28] For purchase links see **Recording of the Month** [review](#) and [review](#).



This is a perfectly fine performance of Elgar's final oratorio but, in the light of Elder's other achievements in this field, I think we had the right to expect a little more. His [Apostles](#) and, especially, his [Gerontius](#) were such deeply felt, spiritually redolent performances that this one feels a little workmanlike in comparison. Admittedly, Elgar tries to depict the Apostles as more human figures in this piece, but this performance makes them feel a little ordinary, with little of the sacred reverence that the other works commanded on the Hallé label. The soloists are perfectly fine, particularly Iain Paterson as Peter, though John Hudson sounds a little under pressure as John and the ladies are often serviceable rather than special. Recorded sound is fine, but 'fine' isn't really something to put up with when Boult's classic recording is out there as competition. **[ST]**

**Sir Edward ELGAR (1857-1934)**

String Quartet, Op.83 (1918) [29:19]  
 Piano Quintet, Op.84 (1918-19) [37:41]  
 Martin Roscoe (piano)  
 Brodsky Quartet

rec. 25-27 November 2018, Potton Hall, Dunwich, UK. DDD.

Reviewed as 24-bit download with pdf booklet from [chandos.net](http://chandos.net).

**CHANDOS CHAN10980** [67:10] For purchase details see [review](#) by Michael Greenhalgh



In a very detailed review – link above – Michael Greenhalgh gives his reasons for making this his chosen version of these two works. No collection of Elgar would be complete without these two examples of the brief but very productive period which he spent at Brinkwells in the Sussex countryside. Though Elgar was still only 61, these end-of-wartime works have an air of an Indian Summer about them, but that doesn't prevent them from also being energetic and stirring.

It's one of the strengths of the Chandos catalogue that they are willing to duplicate recordings which have already won high praise, in this case the identical coupling from Ian Brown and the Sorrel Quartet (**CHAN9894** – [review](#) – [review](#)). There is also strong competition on Hyperion, with both works coupled with shorter pieces from Piers Lane and the Goldner Quartet on **CDA67857** and from the Nash Ensemble in the Quintet and Violin Sonata on mid-price **CDH55301**. I compared those three recordings in [DL Roundup July 2011/2](#) and all three remain competitive. The two Hyperion recordings are slightly less expensive than either of the Chandos as lossless downloads<sup>1</sup>, but neither is available in 24-bit, which is where the new Chandos has a slight edge.

<sup>1</sup> CDA67857 at £8.99 from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk); CDH55301 at £7.99 from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk).

**Hamish MacCUNN (1868-1916)**

Land of the Mountain and the Flood, Concert Overture, Op.3 [9:22]  
 The Dowie Dens o' Yarrow [10:20]  
 The Ship o' the Fiend [12:02]  
 Jeanie Deans [33:29]  
 The Lay of the Last Minstrel [4:44]  
 Lisa Milne (soprano), Janice Watson (soprano); Peter Sidhom (bass);  
 Graeme Danby (bass), Stephen Gadd (bass); Jamie MacDougall (tenor);  
 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Opera Chorus/Martyn Brabbins  
 rec. April 1995, Govan Town Hall, Glasgow. DDD.

Reviewed as lossless download with pdf booklet from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk).

**HYPERION CDA66815** [69:15]



CD from	
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**William WORDSWORTH (1908-1988)**

**Orchestral Music, Volume Two**

Piano Concerto in d minor, Op.28 (1946) [23:07]  
 Three Pastoral Sketches, Op.10 (1937) [17:59]  
 Violin Concerto in A, Op.60 (1955) [38:33]  
 Arta Arnicană (piano)  
 Kamila Bydlowska (violin)  
 Liepāja Symphony Orchestra/John Gibbons  
 MusicWeb International

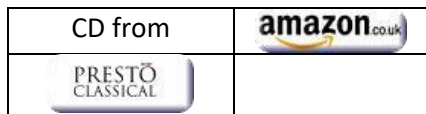


First recordings

rec. 21–25 January 2019, Great Amber Concert Hall, Liepāja, Latvia. DDD.

Reviewed as 24/96 download with pdf booklet from [eclassical.com](http://eclassical.com).

**TOCCATA CLASSICS TOCC0526** [79:41]



Reviewing the Wordsworth, for reasons which will be apparent when it appears on the main pages, I noted that we seem not to have reviewed the Hyperion MacCunn. Let me say here only that the Toccata recording is a very worthwhile successor to Volume

1.

For the MacCunn, if you want just his best-known work, *Land of the Mountain and the Flood* – perhaps you remember when it was used as the theme tune for a TV series – there's an inexpensive Classics for Pleasure recording which may be more to your liking, from Alexander Gibson and the Scottish National Orchestra, *Music of the Four Nations* (**3524052**, with music by Ethel Smyth, Hamilton Harty and Edward German, download only). For a more complete view of MacCunn, however, the Hyperion is very valuable.

### **Folk Tales: British Cello and Piano Miniatures**

**Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)** Six Studies in English Folksong (1926) [8:52]

**Frank BRIDGE (1879-1941)** 4 Short Pieces - No. 2, Spring Song (version for cello & piano, 1912) [2:32]

**Ernest John MOERAN (1894-1950)** Irish Lament (1944) [3:20]

**Sir Edward ELGAR (1857-1934)** Romance, Op.62 (1910) [6:27]

**Frederick DELIUS (1862-1934)** Caprice & Elegy (1930) [7:00]

**Arnold BAX (1883-1953)** Folk-Tale for cello and piano [8:15]

**Ernest John MOERAN** Prelude [4:49]

**Frederick DELIUS** Romance for cello & piano (1918) [6:16]

**Frank BRIDGE** Cradle song (H96, 1910) [2:52]

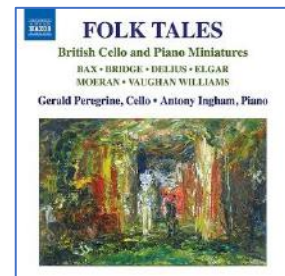
**Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS** Fantasia on *Greensleeves* (1934, arr. **Ralph Greaves, Watson Forbes**) [3:54]

Gerald Peregrine (cello), Antony Ingham (piano)

rec. 19-20 February and 10 July 2018, Potton Hall, Suffolk. DDD.

Reviewed as lossless (wav) press preview. Booklet from Naxos Music Library.

**NAXOS 8.574035** [54:26] For purchase details see reviews by [Rob Barnett](#) and [John France](#).



The composers may be more familiar than the music on this recording, but don't let that stop you exploring this enjoyable collection. Subscribers can try it from [Naxos Music Library](#).

### **Béla BARTÓK (1881-1945)**

*The Wooden Prince*, Op. 13 - A ballet-pantomime in one Act, with a scenario by Béla Balázs (1917) [53:48]

Concert suite *The Miraculous Mandarin*, Op. 19 - A ballet-pantomime in one Act, after a libretto by Melchior Lengyel (1924/1927) [18:26]

Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra/Susanna Mälkki

rec. 2017 (*The Wooden Prince*), 2018 (*The Miraculous Mandarin*), Helsinki

Music Centre, Finland

Reviewed as a 24/48 download with pdf booklet from [eclassical.com](http://eclassical.com).

Pdf booklet included

**BIS BIS-2328 SACD** [73:07] For details see reviews by [Dan Morgan](#) and [Jim Westhead](#).





The one thing I would add to my colleagues' reviews is that the concert suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin* under-represents the music to the same extent as the suite from Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, if not more so. In both cases, the complete ballet is greatly preferable; it's doubly a shame that this performance of *Mandarin* is good, as there would have been room for the complete ballet on SACD and as a download. Fortunately, there are some first-rate recordings of the complete ballet: Iván Fischer's award-winning 1996 Philips version with the Budapest Festival Orchestra is available as an attractively priced Presto special CD ([4761799](#), with Hungarian Sketches, etc., £9.75).

**Gerald FINZI (1901-1956) Choral works**

*Magnificat*, Op.36 [9:53]

Welcome Sweet and Sacred Feast, Op.27/3 [7:36]

My Lovely One, Op.27/1 [2:47]

God is gone up, Op.27/2 [4:42]

**David BEDNALL (b.1979)**

*Nunc Dimittis* [8:22]

**Gerald FINZI**

White-flowering Days, Op.37 [3:57]

All this Night, Op.33 [2:35]

7 Poems of Robert Bridges, Op.17 - No.1 I praise the Tender Flower [2:13]

No.2 I have Loved Flowers that fade [2:52]

No.3 My Spirit Sang All Day [1:42]

No.4 Clear and gentle Stream [4:01]

No.5 Nightingales [2:55]

No.6 Haste on, my Joys! [1:57]

No.7 Wherefore Tonight so full of Care [3:26]

Lo, The full, final Sacrifice, Op.26 [15:18]

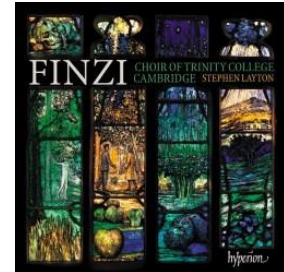
Alexander Hamilton (organ), Asher Oliver (organ)

Trinity Brass

Trinity College Choir Cambridge/Stephen Layton

Reviewed as 24/96 download with pdf booklet from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk).

**HYPERION CDA68222** [74:16] For purchase details see review by Rob Barnett (link below)



Comparative recordings:

- My lovely one; God is gone up; Welcome sweet and sacred feast; Let us now praise famous men; Lo, the full, final sacrifice; *Magnificat* - Westminster Abbey Choir/James O'Donnell (with **Bax and Ireland**) [CDA68167](#) – [review](#) – [review](#)
- Finzi Choral Works – Finzi Singers/Paul Spicer **Chandos CHAN8936** – download only, from [chandos.net](http://chandos.net) (mp3 and 16-bit lossless, with pdf booklet)
- Finzi Sacred Choral Music – St John's College Choir Cambridge/Christopher Robinson **Naxos 8.555792**: Bargain of the Month – [review](#) (or 8-CD set **8.508017**).

Some recordings are good enough to bear two reviews. Rob Barnett has already had a crack at this – [review](#), so I originally intended to write an extra, longer review for the main pages. While I concur with Rob's view that Finzi's works with orchestral accompaniment represent his best, and though I'm not about to ditch the three recordings listed for comparison, I'm certainly not going to look this new gift horse in the mouth. In fact, I'm going to do that annoying thing and recommend that you choose them all.

If that sounds as if it might deplete your bank balance, the Naxos can be obtained as a lossless download for as little as £4.79, with pdf booklet (£4.51 or less in mp3). The Chandos is now download only (£9.99 for lossless, £7.99 for mp3, link above) and Hyperion's earlier recording can be obtained for £8 in lossless, or £12 in 24-bit format, the new recording for £8.99/£13.50.

**Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)**

String Quartet No.2 in A, Op.68 (1944) [33:43]

String Quartet No.1 in C, Op.49 (1938) [13:27]

String Quartet No.7 in f-sharp minor, Op.108 (1960) [12:11]

Carducci String Quartet

rec. Wyastone Concert Hall, Wyastone, Monmouthshire, UK, 12-14 June

2017. DDD.

Reviewed as 24/96 download with pdf booklet from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk).

**SIGNUM SIGCD559** [59:29]



CD from	

Volume 1 of this series, containing Quartets Nos. 4, 8 and 11 was released over five years ago (**SIGCD418** – [review](#) – [review](#)). I missed it then but downloaded it along with the new, second release from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk), where it's available in 16-

and 24-bit formats, with pdf booklet. I've seen Volume 1 described as 'metronomic' but I liked both volumes. If, as it seems, this is building up to a complete set, it will be a rival to existing recommendations. For 'old school' Shostakovich, the original Borodin String Quartet set of 1-13 (1967-71) is currently on offer for £12.60 (**CHAN10064**, CD only, no download).

A strong performance of the lengthy No.2 opens an attractive album from the Carducci Quartet; though initially sounding less intense than the Borodins, the Signum recordings offer a well-recorded alternative, especially as heard in 24-bit. Don't be put off by the musicians' uncompromising appearance on the cover.

**Robert FÜRSTENTHAL (1920-2016)**

Chamber Music, Volume One

Sonata for Two Oboes and Piano in d minor, Op.56 [14:24]

Cello Sonata in f minor, Op.58 [12:01]

Viola Sonata in d minor, Op.57 [16:12]

Violin Sonata in b minor, Op.43 [16:25]

Piano Trio, Op.65 [13:39]

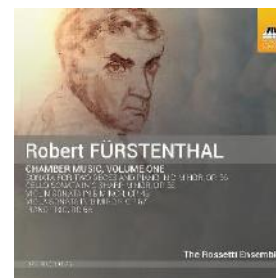
First recordings

The Rossetti Ensemble

rec. 8–9 November 2018 (Viola Sonata, Op.57; Violin Sonata, Op.43; Piano Trio, Op.65) and 17–19 December 2018 (Sonata for Two Oboes and Piano, Op.56; Cello Sonata, Op. 58), St Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town, London. DDD.

Reviewed as 24-bit download with pdf booklet from [eclassical.com](http://eclassical.com).

**TOCCATA CLASSICS TOCC0519** [72:43]



CD from	

Toccata bring us the music of yet another composer of whom I had never heard, having missed Göran Forsling's very appreciative [review](#) of the earlier release of Robert Fürstenthal's *Songs and Ballads of Life and Passing* (**TOCC0354**). That review

includes details of how the composer escaped the Nazis, rediscovered his first love in America and began composing again.

If anything, the new album of his chamber music is even more appealing than its predecessor. If I say that there's nothing here to put off those like myself who don't like 'advanced' music, that doesn't mean that the music is superficial or unimaginative; there's plenty of variety on offer and the performances by the Rossetti Ensemble, here making their recording debut (?) do it all justice, as does the recording, especially as heard in 24-bit format.

**Airat ICHMOURATOV (b.1973) Orchestral Works**

Concerto Grosso No.1, Op.28 (2011) [21:10]

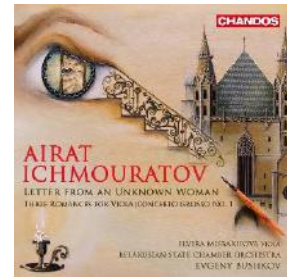
Three Romances, Op.22 for Viola and Strings, with Harp (2009) [21:18]

Octet, Op.56 *Letter from an Unknown Woman* in g minor for string orchestra (arr. composer) (2017) [17:16]

Elvira Misbakhova (viola); Airat Ichmouratov (clarinet); Pavel Batsian (violin); Elvira Misbakhova (viola); Alexander Serdiukov (cello); Marina Romeyko (piano); Igor Avdeyev (percussion); Roman Zhdanovich (percussion); Oksana Sushkova (harp)

Belarusian State Chamber Orchestra/Evgeny Bushkov

rec. 2018, Verhni Gorod Concert Hall, Minsk, Belarus. DDD.

Reviewed as 24/96 download with pdf booklet from [chandos.net](http://chandos.net).**CHANDOS CHAN20141** [59:33] For details see [review by Rob Barnett](#).

Download from	<b>CHANDOS</b> THE SOUND OF CLASSICAL
Stream from	<b>NAXOS</b> MUSIC LIBRARY

The main – perhaps the only – thing that you need to know is that the music is more than accessible. I knew from the opening of the Concerto Grosso No.1 that I was going to like it. Try it from [Naxos Music Library](http://Naxos Music Library), where you can find more

of his music, if you're not sure. If you were tempted by the evocative cover, the contents should prove all that you expected.

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**Alpha Collection: Nos. 57-70**

These are the latest mid-price reissues from Alpha, all reviewed from mp3 press previews. Guide price around £8.75, even including the 2-CD releases. If I am able to obtain better quality copies, I hope to return to some of these in more detail.

**ALBINONI Sinfonie a Cinque, Op.2**

Ensemble 415/Chiara Banchini – rec. 2008. DDD.

**ALPHA 486** [53:54]From Zig Zag ZZT090202: *Recording of the Month* – [review](#).

For Johan van Veen the original release went straight to the top of his recordings of the year and I see no reason to demur, especially at the new price. The better-known Concerti a cinque, Op.7 and Op.9 can be found on three Chandos recordings from Collegium Musicum 90 (**CHAN0579**, **0602** and **0610**). Comparing the first of these with Ensemble 415 in [July 2009](#), I thought the latter slightly more enjoyable, but that's no reason not to go for the Chandos too, all available to download from [chandos.net](http://chandos.net).

**BACH Sonatas for violin and keyboard, BWV1014-1019**

Florence Malgoire (baroque violin), Blandine Rannou (harpsichord) – rec. May 2003.

**ALPHA 487** [2 CD 98:54]

From Zig Zag ZZT050801



A recent very fine recording of these sonatas, from Isabelle Faust and Kristian Bezuidenhout (Harmonia Mundi **HMM902256.57**, 2 CDs, around £19) 'demonstrate[s] a profound understanding and a great affection for this set of sonatas', as Michael Cookson puts it in his [review](#). Others were even more enthusiastic, but the considered performances on this mid-price Alpha reissue are also well worth considering, especially at their new price of around £8.75.

**BACH** Toccatas, BWV910-916

Blandine Rannou (harpsichord) – rec. 2005

**ALPHA 488** [76:04]

From Zig Zag ZZT050501



I haven't yet been able to hear Mahan Esfahani's new recording of these toccatas from Hyperion (CDA68244), but it has received some enthusiastic reviews. It can be downloaded in lossless sound from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk) for £8.99, only a few pence more than the Alpha CD, and in 24-bit for £13.50, so the best advice may well be to wait and see. Rannou's Bach is unfailingly stylish but there's no lack of energy, either.

**BACH** Organ Works

Chorale BWV736: 'Valet will ich dir geben'

Fugue in b minor, BWV579

*Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend*

Chorale BWV655: 'Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend'

Prelude and fugue in G, BWV550

*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*

Chorale BWV654: 'Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele'

Prelude in a minor, BWV569

Trio Sonata No. 1, BWV525

Chorale BWV618: 'O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig in canone alla quinta'

*O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig*

Chorale BWV717: 'Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr'

*Allein Gott in der Höhe sei Ehr*

Chorale BWV715: 'Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr'

Chorale BWV711: 'Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr'

Prelude in d minor, BWV549

Fantasia super 'Christ lag in Todesbanden', BWV695

*Christ lag in Todesbanden*

*Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der von uns des Zorn Gottes wandt*

Chorale BWV688: 'Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der von uns des Zorn Gottes wandt'

Fugue in E-flat, BWV552

Francis Jacob (organ), with Philippe Froeliger (tenor) and Caroline Magalhaes (soprano) – rec. 2000.

**ALPHA 489** [2 CD: 90:52]

From Zig Zag ZZT0010012



Plus points: 91 minutes of Bach's organ music in attractive performances, well recorded, all without including the ubiquitous Prelude and Fugue in d, BWV565, and all for around £8.75. On the other hand, there are so many very fine Bach organ recitals out there that it would be difficult to privilege this above so many others. Another plus, however, is the singing by Caroline Magalhaes and Philippe Froeliger of the chorale tunes on which so many of the pieces are based: *Valet will ich dir geben*, for example, turns out to be another example of Bach's use of the tune best known as the Passiontide *O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden*, also used in the Christmas Oratorio. There may be a preponderance of chorale preludes, but examples of other forms are also included. For a 2-CD set of Bach's organ music, Peter Hurford on budget-price Decca is hard to beat: more music for only a little more money (**4434852**).

I'm currently working on a review of another Peter Hurford recording, a Decca Eloquence reissue of his recital on the Organ of Sidney Opera House (**4840351**), together with the third and latest release in Masaaki Suzuki's continuing series of Bach organ music for BIS (**BIS-2421 SACD**). The BIS can be

downloaded in 16- and 24-bit, the latter in stereo or surround 5.0, and for the same price as 16-bit initially from [eclassical.com](http://eclassical.com).

**BACH** Sonatas, BWV1030, 1032, 1045 and 1035 and solo for transverse flute, BW1013

François Lazarevitch (flute), Jean Rondeau (harpsichord), Lucile Boulanger (viola da gamba), Thomas Dunford (Archlute) (Les Musiciens de Saint Julien) – rec. 2013

**ALPHA 490** [71:42]

From Alpha 186.



I can only assume that this music is not perceived as Bach's most immediately attractive, or the existence of some other fine recordings, has occasioned the reissue so soon after the original. Only the crazy sleeve design detracts – the original had one of Alpha's attractive contemporary pictures on the cover.

**BIBER** Rosary Sonatas

Patrick Bismuth (violin), Ensemble La Tempesta – rec. 2003.

**ALPHA 491** [2 CD: 114:47]

From Zig Zag ZZT040801



Biber was a master of musical description in his secular and sacred music, but not even his *Sonata rappresentativa*, complete with peasants and farmyard noises, is more evocative than his sonatas on the themes of the rosary, from The Annunciation to The Coronation of the Virgin Mary and the final Guardian Angel passacaglia. Of the many fine recordings of this music, I hadn't come across this Alpha before and I can't offer too many details because the press release comes with the booklet muddled up with another recording.

It's an effective reading, but not competitive with the likes of Rachel Podger's Channel Classics 2-SACD collection (**CCSSA37315** – [DL News 2015/9](http://DLNews.com) for this and other recordings), and even in the same price range John Holloway and his team on Virgin Veritas offer strong competition (**5620622**, target price £8.50).

**BUXTEHUDE** *Ciaccona: Il Mondo Che Gira* - Vocal and Instrumental Music  
María Cristina Kiehr (soprano), Víctor Torres (baritone), Stylus Phantasticus – rec. 2002

Texts not included.

**ALPHA 492** [60:57] From ALPHA047



I have no idea what the cover is supposed to signify and I would have liked much more of María Cristina Kiehr, who sings beautifully in the short opening cantata, *Herr wenn ich dich nur habe* – and how about giving us the text of that and the closing setting of the psalm *Sicut cervus*? All that apart, these examples of Buxtehude's *Stylus Phantasticus*, sonatas, *passacaglia*, *ciaccona*, etc., performed by the group which has adopted that name, are very welcome.

**Marc Antoine CHARPENTIER** Vespers for Saint Louis, H292, with Motet *In honorem Sancti Ludovici Regis Galliae Canticum tribus vocibus cum symphonia*, H323

Les Pages et Les Chantres du Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles/Olivier Schneebeli – rec. Versailles, 2003.

Texts not included but available online.

**ALPHA 493** [71:37]

From Alpha 050.



Only recently I was praising this team in a recording of *Grands Motets* by DeLalande (Glossa GCD924301 – [review](#)). This Alpha reissue may be 16 years old, but it's just as enjoyable. It's unacceptable, however, to have to go online for the texts, even at mid-price; how much would it have cost to reprint the original booklet? Otherwise, I'm pleased that this latest series offers much better sets of notes than earlier Collection reissues. If you enjoy this set of Vespers music, try a Naxos recording of Charpentier's Vespers for the Virgin Mary, from *Le Concert Spirituel* and Hervé Niquet (8.553174).

**François COUPERIN** Keyboard works  
Blandine Rannou (harpsichord) – rec. 2003.  
**ALPHA 494** [2 CD 131:37]  
From Zig Zag ZZT0404012



Rannou's programme scatters all eight preludes from *L'Art de toucher le clavecin* throughout an interesting selection of works from the four books of *ordres*. Many listeners will prefer the arrangement to recordings of complete books and the performances are idiomatic and enjoyable. It's all good value, too, on two CDs for around £8.75. (Make sure that you don't pay for two CDs with this and the other twofers in this series.) For once, the cover of the reissue is an improvement on the grotesque effort which 'graced' the original.

**DUFAY** *Missa Se La Face Ay Pale*  
Diabolus In Musica/Antoine Guerber - rec. 2003  
Texts not included but available online.  
**ALPHA 495** [67:05]  
From Alpha 051



This Mass, one of the most important compositions of the fifteenth century, has had a number of fine recordings, not least from the Binchois Consort and Andrew Kirkman (Hyperion **CDA67715** – [review](#) – [review](#)). Guerber and Kirkman both present the settings of the Ordinary in a liturgical context with propers – on Hyperion from Dufay's *Missa Sancti Mauritii*. Comparing the two, though I thought that Guerber offered strong competition, my vote was ultimately cast for Kirkman's brisker account. The new, lower price of the Alpha may be a factor, but the Hyperion can be downloaded for only a few pence more. Very surprisingly, the Hyperion CD can be obtained only to special order from the Archive Service or as a download.

**Este Libro es de Don Luis Rossi:**  
**MONTEVERDI** *Lamento d'Olympia; Lamento d'Arianna*; **BASSANI, DE MACQUE, TRABACI, PERI; GESUALDO** *Canzon Francese*  
Ensemble Poïesis/Marion Fourquier (triple harp) – rec. 1999.  
Music from British Library MS Add. 30491.  
**ALPHA 496** [75:05]  
From Zig Zag ZZT000301



This manuscript written by Luigi Rossi for his patron is best known as a primary source for the music of Monteverdi and of Rossi's own Neapolitan teacher Giovanni De Macque. Instrumental and vocal music are combined in a programme which is likely to appeal mainly to specialists, though there is much to enjoy, particularly at the new price.

**MATTEIS** False Consonances of Melancholy: Ayres for the Violin  
Gli Incogniti/Amandine Beyer – rec. 2009.

**ALPHA 497** [72:49]

From ZIGZAG TERRITOIRES ZZT 090802



‘Beyer is accompanied by a crack team of continuo players ... Although Matteis ... cannot be made out to be a forgotten genius, one cannot deny the fecundity of his art, his individuality and general influence on the period especially in England’. – [review](#) by Gary Higginson.

Don’t be put off by the title – there’s plenty of music here that’s far from melancholy. In any case, it’s hard to know how serious people in earlier times were about melancholy or what we would now call depression. For Dowland it seems to have been a game, occasioned by a pun on his name, and it’s hard not to laugh at Aubrey’s assertion in his *Brief Lives* that he was melancholy in the womb. On the other hand, Burton took it seriously enough to write his *Anatomy of Melancholy* and one of the delights of this recording is the contrast between light and shade. So forget the title and enjoy.

**MOZART** Clarinet Quintet, K 581, Quartets for clarinet, violin, viola and cello, K 380/374F and K 378/317B

Florent Héau (clarinet), Quatuor Manfred – rec. 2007.

**ALPHA 498** [72:12]

From Zig Zag ZZT080503



With so many first-rate recordings of the Clarinet Quintet, this attractive recording is hardly sufficient to stand on its own merits, but the coupled quartets are rarities, better known as violin sonatas K378 and K380 and the Divertimento K496, possibly arranged by the publisher Johann André. The arrangement of K380 is also coupled with the quintet on a 1991/2 Naxos recording by Jozsef Baloch and the Danubius Quartet, with the clarinet quintet in F, KAnh.90 (**8.550390**).

For the clarinet quintet at a comparable price, look no further than Jack Brymer with the Allegri Quartet, coupled with the clarinet concerto, with LSO and Colin Davis, on Philips Solo **4423902**. Thea King with the Gabrieli Quartet also offers the concerto, with ECO and Jeffrey Tate and that recording can be downloaded from [hyperion-records.co.uk](http://hyperion-records.co.uk) for even less, at £7.99 (**CDA66199** – [review](#) of reissue, now superseded by original catalogue number, as here).

**TELEMANN** Overture and Concertos for Darmstadt

Les Ambassadeurs/Alexis Kossenko – rec. 2014.

**ALPHA 499** [70:23]

From Alpha 200



Snap up this very fine Alpha reissue, but be prepared for it to lead you to discover more of Telemann’s music. See Index for link to review.

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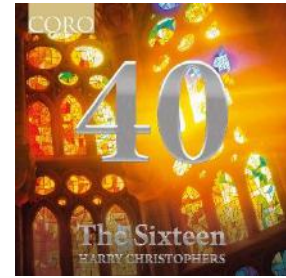
**The Sixteen: 40th Anniversary Collection**

Details after review

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Texts not included.

Reviewed as lossless (flac) download with pdf booklet from

[thesixteenshop.com](http://thesixteenshop.com).**CORO COR16172** [76:12 + 72:51]

CD from	
Download from	<a href="http://thesixteenshop.com">thesixteenshop.com</a>

Oxford in the 1970s saw the birth of two leading groups of singers, the Tallis Scholars in 1973 and The Sixteen in 1979. The Scholars celebrated their fortieth birthday with a 2-CD set entitled *Renaissance Radio*, a compilation of 44 tracks from their recordings at budget price (**CDGIM212**:

Recording of the Month [review](#) – [DL News 2013/5](#)). Now The Sixteen celebrate their own fortieth with a similar compilation, albeit at mid- rather than budget price (around £17 on CD, £15.99 in lossless flac or alac from [thesixteenshop.com](http://thesixteenshop.com), link above).

I long ago stopped trying to compare two such accomplished groups; although there are similarities of repertoire and approach, the Scholars have, by and large, stuck to the renaissance repertoire, while The Sixteen have spread their net wider. The Scholars tend to produce one, or at most two, recordings per year; The Sixteen have been more prolific.

Whereas the Scholars have made their releases on their own Gimell label, with a brief tie-up with Philips, The Sixteen began recording for other labels before founding their own Coro company. To get the full picture, therefore, you need to turn also to a collection of recordings which they made for Hyperion, still available individually and mostly at budget price, but best obtained in a 10-CD set *The Golden Age of Polyphony* (**CDS44401/10**, currently on offer from [Presto](#) for £25: **Bargain of the Month** [review](#)).

I know and like most of The Sixteen's recordings, but here's the rub: whereas Gimell's various reshufflings of The Tallis Scholars give us enough music at a time to get our teeth into, all the extracts on the Coro 2-CD set are very short, more akin to the kind of appetite-whetters that the record companies used to give away on magazine cover mounts. Best to save your money for complete Coro CDs, or even the Hyperion box, currently not costing much more than the Fortieth Anniversary album. How about their blend of Tallis, Byrd and Pärt, *The Deer's Cry* (**COR16140** – [DL News 2016/7](#))?

CD1 [76.12]

**HANDEL** *Saul*, HWV53: Act I, Scene I - How excellent Thy name [2:45]**MacMILLAN** *The Strathclyde Motets: O Radiant Dawn* [3:18]**PALESTRINA** *Song of Songs: Surge amica mea* [2:34]**VICTORIA** *O Domine Jesu Christe* [3:38]**PURCELL** *Remember not, O Lord, our offences, Z50* [2:59]**ALLEGRI** *Miserere mei, Deus* [11:28]**MONTEVERDI** *Vespers of 1610, SV 206: Deus in adiutorium meum intende* [1:58]**MELGAS** *Salve Regina* [4:09]**TAVENER** *Hymn for the Dormition of the Mother of God* [4:49]**PÄRT** *The Deer's Cry* [4:21]**Robert PEARSALL** *Lay a garland* [3.06]**TALLIS** *O nata lux* [1.45]**BYRD** *Haec dies* [2.26]**William HARRIS** *Bring us, O Lord God* [3.46]**HANDEL** *Let thy hand be strengthened* [3.07]**John SHEPPARD** *In manus tuas* I [3.44]



- Robert PARSONS** *Ave Maria* [4.31]  
**John PLUMMER** *Tota pulchra es* [3.37]  
**FAURÉ** *Sanctus* (from *Requiem*) [3.11] (with Academy of St Martin in the Fields)  
**BACH** *Gott der Herr ist Sonn' und Schild* (from Cantata 79 BWV79) [4.53]  
 CD2 [72:51]  
**STRAVINSKY** *Exaudi orationem meam Domine* (from Symphony of Psalms) [3:02] (with BBC Philharmonic)  
**Frank MARTIN** *Sanctus and Benedictus* (from Mass for double choir) [4:29]  
**BACH** *Kyrie eleison II* (from Mass in b minor BWV232) [3:34]  
**PALESTRINA** *Ave Maria* [4:26]  
**TALLIS** *Miserere nostri* [2:59]  
**PURCELL** *Symphony / O sing unto the Lord* (from O sing unto the Lord Z44) [3:32]  
**HANDEL** *And the glory of the Lord* (from *Messiah* HWV56) [3:02]  
**MESSIAEN** *Cinq Rechants: I* [4.55]  
**MacMILLAN** *The Gallant Weaver* [5.47]  
**Alonso LOBO** *Versa est in luctum* [4.24]  
**POULENC** *Sanctus* (from Mass in G FP89) [2.29]  
**MONTEVERDI** *Gloria* (from *Messa a quattro voci* SV190) [4.16]  
**SCHÜTZ** *Herr, nun lässest du deinen Diener* (SWV432) [3.30]  
**Marcin MIELCZEWSKI** *Benedictio et claritas* [4.50] (directed by Eamonn Dougan)  
**MOZART** *Dixit Dominus* (from Vespers K339) [3.55] (with Academy of St Martin in the Fields)  
**BRITTEN** *Balulalow* (from A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28) [1.20]  
**Howard SKEMPTON** *Adam lay ybounden* [1.13]  
**Morten LAURIDSEN** *O magnum mysterium* [6.41]  
**BRITTEN** *This little Babe* (from A Ceremony of Carols, Op.28) [1.22]  
**HANDEL** *Your voices tune* (from *Alexander's Feast* HWV75) [3.03]

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A selection of recordings from **Ray Noble** and his British and American Orchestras, with The Freshmen, Al Bowlly and Jack Plant, made in London from 1931 to 1936 and in New York from 1935 to 1936, features good transfers on Beulah **1PS50**. Stream from [Qobuz](#) or [download there](#) for £7.99. The 21 tracks, which include *Brighter than the Sun*, *By the Fireside*, *Spanish Eyes*, *What more can I ask? The very thought of you, I'll be good because of you, I'll do my best to make you happy* and *Love locked out* (London) and *Rhythm is our business*, *Little old Lady*, *Sweet Sue*, *Let's spill the beans*, *El Relicario*, *Lullaby of Broadway*, *Now and There's something in the air* (New York) run for 70:59.



There are transfers of many of these on other labels, often available less expensively but offering commensurately less music.