



Naxos 2.110691-92 [DVD]
NBD0130V [Blu-ray]
Paul HINDEMITH (1895–1963)
Mathis der Maler
Libretto by the composer
Sung in German
 Manuela Uhl, Soprano
 Kurt Streit, Tenor
 Wolfgang Koch, Baritone
 Franz Grundheber, Bass-baritone
 Slovak Philharmonic Choir
 Wiener Symphoniker
 Bertrand de Billy, Conductor
 Keith Warner, Stage Director

This is a rare opportunity to secure an audiovisual recording of Hindemith's seldom staged *Mathis der Maler*. An 'opera in seven tableaux', it's a reimagining of *Matthias Grünewald's* Isenheim Altarpiece, a depiction of Christ's intense suffering and crucifixion. Premiered in Zurich in 1938, it clearly represented Hindemith's own struggle in the face of the Nazis' rise to power; performances of the opera in Germany were duly banned by the regime. This 2012 production, filmed at Vienna's Theater an den Wien, featured Bertrand de Billy as musical director and baritone Wolfgang Koch in the title role. It was well received by the critics: 'The performance was dominated by Wolfgang Koch's magnificent assumption of the title role. His powerful, impressive dramatic baritone was also capable of gentle lyricism.' (*Das Opernglas*)



Naxos 8.574291
Johannes BRAHMS (1833–1897)
Clarinet Sonatas, Op. 120
Flute and Piano Versions
 Karl-Heinz Schütz, Flute
 Maria Prinz, Piano

Flautists everywhere will be keen to get to know these masterly arrangements of some of Brahms' finest chamber music. The composer himself provided an adaptation for viola and piano of his two Clarinet Sonatas, Op. 120. Now we have Karl-Heinz Schütz's version for flute and piano, based on Brahms' own amendments, but judiciously tailored to achieve the ideal of two equally matched instruments in constant dialogue. The addition of new transcriptions of nine of Brahms' sublime song settings is the icing on the cake. This programme provides a real sense of fresh discovery delivered in superb performances by distinguished artists: Schütz is principal flute with the Vienna Philharmonic; pianist Maria Prinz already has numerous well received Naxos recordings to her credit.



Naxos 8.551455-56
Johann Sebastian BACH
 (1685–1750)
Goldberg Variations
 Arranged for ten-string guitar duo
 Duo Synaphé –
 Dimitar Ivanov &
 Angela Kleger, Guitars

**WORLD PREMIERE
 RECORDING**

Johann Sebastian Bach's Goldberg Variations is a contrapuntal tour de force and one of the pinnacles in the history of the variation genre, so there's no wonder that musicians have been inspired to make arrangements of the work for almost every imaginable combination of instruments. I say almost because, although you can find transcriptions for guitar duo, this album treads new ground with its version for two 10-string guitars, an instrument that offers the striking resonances of an extra octave below the normal guitar and facilitates greater flexibility in voicing the music's individual lines. Renowned guitarists Angela Kleger and Dimitar Ivanov founded Duo Synaphé in 2020 to record new repertoire for their instruments, which undoubtedly take classical masterpieces into new dimensions of expression and colour.



NXN Recordings NXN2007
Two Brothers
 Thomas Torstrup Quartet –
 Thomas Torstrup, Piano
 Simen Kiil Halvorsen, Trumpet
 Stian Andersen, Double Bass
 Ivar Asheim, Drums

This release will certainly attract anyone looking for the treat of something refreshingly new. Thomas Torstrup is a Norwegian jazz pianist and organist who has already notched up a number of successful cross-genre projects, which he now extends with his latest album for jazz quartet. Think of it as melodic jazz with an original touch and a wide palette of stylistic references, including sounds of American traditional jazz, sacred music and the world of Olivier Messiaen. The eight tracks well portray Torstrup's unusual sources of inspiration, from the sounds of raindrops and wind to those of children trying instruments for the first time. And if that doesn't whet your appetite, I don't know what will!



Capriccio C5380
Erno DOHNÁNYI (1877–1960)
Tante Simona – Overture
American Rhapsody
Suite, Op. 19

Leó WEINER (1885–1960)
Serenade, Op. 3
 ORF Vienna Radio Symphony
 Orchestra
 Roberto Paternostro

Although the Hungarian composer Erno Dohnányi was one of the most versatile and influential musicians of his time, his works are now seldom played. I won't be the only one, therefore, to appreciate the Capriccio label's efforts to fill this gap which now takes a step further with this fifth volume in their series. The orchestral programme includes Dohnányi's Suite in F sharp minor which premiered in 1910 and subsequently became one of his most performed works. The conductor on this release is again Roberto Paternostro. His recording of Dohnányi's First Symphony ([C5386](#)) was praised by *Fanfare*: 'a knockout version ... I can recommend Paternostro's new recording enthusiastically and without reservation.'



Opus Arte OAI335D [DVD]
 OABD7289D [Blu-ray]
Gaetano DONIZETTI (1797–1848)
Le convenienze ed
inconvenienze teatrali
(‘The Conventions and
Inconveniences of the Stage’)

Patrizia Ciofi, Soprano
Clara Meloni, Soprano
Charles Rice, Baritone
Laurent Naori, Bass-baritone
Orchestra and Chorus of
Opéra de Lyon
Lorenzo Viotti, Conductor
Laurent Pelly, Stage Director

Donizetti's *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* (The Conventions and Inconveniences of the Stage) is a *dramma giocoso* more snappily known as *Viva la mamma!* It gives the audience a farcical peek behind the curtains of an opera house to reveal what can go wrong when the egos of the actors get in the way of putting on a good show. This tremendous production from Opéra de Lyon injects maximum zest into the colourful cast of characters. From the *prima donna* and the sub-par lead tenor to the *seconda donna*'s boisterous mother (played by a bass singer) and all the characters in between, everyone is playing the diva whilst the director pulls his hair out in frustration. The real-life director of this performance is the celebrated Laurent Pelly who triumphs with a masterpiece of comic timing described as 'a joyous romp' by *Opera News*.