



Naxos 8.660480-82
César FRANCK (1822–1890)
Hulda
(Opera in Five Acts)

Meagan Miller, Soprano
Irina Jae Eun Park, Soprano
Katerina Hebelková, Mezzo-soprano
Anja Jung, Contralto
Joshua Kohl, Tenors
Jin Seok Lee, Bass
Choirs of Theater Freiburg
Philharmonisches Orchester Freiburg
Fabrice Bollon

WORLD PREMIERE
 RECORDING

I'm delighted to introduce this stand-out release that will help opera lovers reappraise César Franck's forgotten stage works. *Hulda* was his last completed opera that has remained neglected since its completion in 1885, apart from a handful of incomplete performances. Freiburg Theatre's 2019 production used the original score for *Hulda* housed at the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris, reinstating all the scenes omitted in the published edition of the opera and consequently making this release the world premiere recording of the fully restored work. For the first time, then, we can all experience Franck's wonderful opera as it was intended. With the plot set in Norway at the time of the great tribal kings, Franck's music portrays raging clans, bloodthirsty murderers and shattered lives alongside moments of exquisite tenderness, placing the title role among the great tragic stage heroines.



Naxos 8.574107
Sergey PROKOFIEV (1891–1953)
Violin Concertos Nos. 1 and 2 *
Sonata for Solo Violin

Tianwa Yang, Violin
ORF Vienna Radio
*Symphony Orchestra **
*Jun Märkl **

The line-up of artists for this recording of Prokofiev's two violin concertos doesn't come more impressive. The internationally renowned soloist Tianwa Yang is again heard on impeccable form, turning deftly between the dazzling technical gymnastics of the Violin Concerto No. 1 and the emotional reserve of the second. Conductor Jun Märkl and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra continue to build on their reputations and presence in our catalogues, Jun for his Naxos discography and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra for their recordings on our affiliated Capriccio, Orfeo and OehmsClassics labels. Tianwa ('an unquestioned master of the violin', *American Record Guide*) has been the recipient of numerous awards and unstinting critical praise over the years. I have no doubt that the reception for this latest release of hers will be similarly enthusiastic.



Naxos 2.110697 [DVD]

NBD0134V [Blu-ray]

Reynaldo HAHN (1874–1947)

Ciboulette

Operetta in three acts and
four tableaux

Libretto by Robert de Flers and

Francis de Croisset

Julie Fuchs, Soprano

Julien Behr, Tenor

Jean-François Lapointe, Baritone
accentus

Orchestre Symphonique de
l'Opéra de Toulon

Laurence Equilbey, Conductor

Michel Fau, Stage Director

Here we have another operatic rarity that will immediately catch the eyes and ears of collectors. It's the only available audiovisual version of Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette*, one of his most elegant and refined works that counts among the last masterpieces of French operetta. Hugely successful in its day (it premiered in 1923), it remains a marvellously entertaining score brought to life here by a cast that was dubbed 'impeccable' by *BBC Music Magazine*. Other critics were equally generous: 'Heading the cast was soprano Julie Fuchs [as Ciboulette], an operetta diva to the manner born.' (*Opera News*); 'Michel Fau's poetically zany stage interpretation and the subtle conducting of Laurence Equilbey give Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* a new lease of life.' (*Télérama.fr*)



Naxos 2.110696 [DVD]

NBD0133V [Blu-ray]

Gioachino ROSSINI (1792–1868)

L'equivoco stravagante

(The Curious Misunderstanding)

Dramma giocoso in two acts

Libretto by Gaetano Gasbarri

Antonella Colaianni, Mezzo-soprano

Patrick Kabongo, Tenor

Giulio Mastrototaro, Baritone

Emmanuel Franco, Baritone

Górecki Chamber Choir

Virtuosi Brunensis

José Miguel Pérez-Sierra, Conductor

Jochen Schönleber, Stage Director

L'equivoco stravagante (The Curious Misunderstanding) was Rossini's first full-length opera, a *dramma giocoso* which he wrote when he was only 19 years old. As its title suggests, the plot offers a feast of absurdist stagecraft with one character being led to believe that the work's heroine is in fact a castrato trying to avoid military service. Although the work is full of Rossini's trademark *buffo* humour, the opera ran foul of the censors and was swiftly banned, which accounts for its rarity in performances and recordings. The new German Rossini Society edition of the score used in this production corrects numerous previous errors. The recording continues Naxos' long-established collaboration with the Rossini in Wildbad Festival and will undoubtedly build on our run of previous successes.



Naxos 8.506041 [6-Disc Boxed Set]
Sir Malcolm ARNOLD (1921–2006)
**Complete Symphonies
 and Dances**
*National Symphony Orchestra of
 Ireland*
Queensland Symphony Orchestra
Andrew Penny

‘This set arguably constitutes the best series of recordings in the Naxos catalogue – performances of uniformly high quality made in the presence of the composer and recorded with more realistic balances and cleaner textures than any of their rivals.’ (*ClassicsToday.com*) That was the response to our initial release of British composer Malcolm Arnold’s complete symphonies, works that reveal the influence of both Mahler and Shostakovich alongside popular music and jazz elements, as well as moments of unsettling intensity and urban grit. Here is that compendium again, marking the 100th anniversary of Arnold’s birth and with the bonus recordings of his popular series of regional orchestral *Dances*. I might also mention that 2021 saw the expansion and reissue of Alan Poulton’s book *Malcolm Arnold: Catalogue of Works* with a foreword by Julian Lloyd Webber, an indispensable resource for Arnold admirers.



Naxos 8.559900
Arthur FARWELL (1872–1952)
America’s Neglected Composer
Songs, choral and piano works
String Quartet ‘The Hako’
William Sharp, Baritone
Emanuele Arciuli, Piano
Dakota String Quartet

INCLUDES
 WORLD PREMIERE
 RECORDINGS

Arthur Farwell (1872–1952) was the leader of the ‘Indianist’ movement in American music who strove to reconcile Native American ritual and the Western concert tradition. Apart from the intrinsic value and interest of the varied items on this album (including the first recording of Farwell’s String Quartet, Op. 65 ‘The Hako’), it’s an opportunity for me to flag up Naxos’ November release of six audiovisual documentaries relating to Joseph Horowitz’s new book, *Dvorak’s Prophecy and the Vexed Fate of Black Classical Music*, also scheduled for release in November. Farwell figures prominently in that book; familiarity with the music on this new release will serve as a pleasurable preparation for what it has to say.



Naxos 8.574258
Long Ago and Far Away
Classic Songs of Love and Romance
All arrangements by
Richard Balcombe
 Mary Carewe, Vocals
 Graham Bickley, Vocals
 Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
 Richard Balcombe

Here's a programme stamped with excellence throughout – from the legendary popular American composers and their librettists to two superb vocalists and conductor Richard Balcombe, whose dazzling arrangements of songs originally written for movies, revues and musicals make up this outstanding new collection. Mary Carewe, equally at home with Broadway showstoppers and contemporary classical music, sings alongside West End star Graham Bickley, who makes his sixth appearance here with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Prepare to be completely captivated.



Capriccio C5460
Hanz Werner HENZE (1926–2012)
Das verratene Meer
(The Sea Betrayed)
 Vera-Lotte Boecker, Soprano
 Josh Lovell, Tenor
 Eric Van Heyningen, Bass-baritone
 Bo Skovhus, Baritone
 Vienna State Opera Orchestra
 Simone Young

'This music has been to Hades and back.' So said Henze of his opera *Das verratene Meer* (The Sea Betrayed), and here's a chance for listeners to fully immerse themselves in this painfully dark and brutal work. The plot's gang violence and thirst for revenge, punctuated by orchestral interludes representing the angry sea of the title, forms the backcloth for outstanding performances by soprano Vera-Lotte Böcker (Fusako), tenor Josh Lovell (Noboru) and baritone Bo Skovhus (Ryuji). Conducting the Vienna State Opera Orchestra, musical director Simone Young helped to earn a five-star review from *The Financial Times* for this performance: '... free from the balance constraints of a conventional performance, [she] unleashes the full force of her formidable orchestra, the violence of its outbursts all the more powerful for the tautness of its control. Her focus is ferocious, and she never lets the players slacken for an instant.'



Capriccio C5350
Alfred SCHNITTKE (1934–1998)
Film Music Edition, Vol. 5
The Stars of the Day
The Audience's Favourite
Father Sergius
 Rundfunkchor Berlin
 Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra
 Frank Strobel

I want to draw your attention to this ongoing edition of Alfred Schnittke's film music that encapsulates many elements of the Russian composer's compositional style. A self-described polystylist, Schnittke began writing for film in the 1960s, penning 66 film scores between 1962 and 1984 for Soviet film companies. His method of drawing on the past was rejected by the avant-garde but embraced by filmgoers and – after inviting film music expert Frank Strobel to condense his film scores into suites – concertgoers, too. We now reach Vol. 5 in the series that presents music from the films *The Stars of the Day*, *The Audience's Favourite* and *Father Sergius*, authoritatively recorded by Strobel and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra.



Dynamic 37908 [DVD]
57908 [Blu-ray]
CDS7908 [CD]
Gaetano DONIZETTI (1797 - 1848)
Le nozze in villa
 Gaia Petrone, Mezzo-soprano
 Giorgio Misseri, Tenor
 Omar Montanari, Baritone
 Fabio Capitanucci, Baritone
 Orchestra Gli Originali
 Stefano Montanari, Conductor
 Davide Marranchelli, Stage director

Here's a real find for Donizetti fans. His early and long-forgotten opera buffa *Le nozze in villa* has languished over the years because there was no original printed copy of the libretto, no autograph score, and the Act II quintet *Aura gentil, che mormori* was completely missing. More's the pity since it's full of Rossini-influenced lyricism and beautiful arias. Fortunately, the Fondazione Donizetti and its scholars took on the challenge to stage the work, commissioning Elio and Rocco Tanica, in collaboration with Enrico Melozzi, to create a new version of the quintet, which 'seamlessly blended with the rest of the score.' (*Bachtrack*). Staged at the 2020 Donizetti Festival, it was enthusiastically received: 'The stage direction by Davide Marranchelli kept the action moving swiftly, and the sets by Anna Bonomelli and the costumes by Lina Riccardi were well conceived. Stefano Montanari conducted ... with elegance and brio.' (*Classical Music Daily*)



Ondine ODE1396-2
Americascapes
LOEFFLER • RUGGLES •
HANSON • COWELL
 Basque National Orchestra
 Robert Trevino

Although the four American composers represented on this album were performed and esteemed in their time, none of them produced a significant number of works that were favoured by the public. Consequently, the items on this programme are probably familiar only to music scholars. Hanson's *Before the Dawn*, for example, has had to wait a century for this, its premiere recording; Loeffler's *La Mort de Tintagiles* is a 25-minute orchestral work featuring a solo part for viola d'amore, similar to the role of the violin in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*; Ruggles' *Evocations* ably demonstrates his skills as an orchestrator; and Cowell's *Variations for Orchestra* reveals him as the great experimentalist who had a profound influence on the early music of John Cage and Lou Harrison. This is Ondine's second album to feature the Basque National Orchestra directed by Robert Trevino. The first comprised orchestral works by Maurice Ravel and received excellent reviews in the international media.



Ondine ODE1392-2
Ludwig van BEETHOVEN
 (1770–1827)
Violin Sonatas Op. 30
 Christian Tetzlaff, Violin
 Lars Vogt, Piano

Violinist Christian Tetzlaff and pianist Lars Vogt return to European chamber masterworks with a new album of Beethoven's Violin Sonatas, Op. 30. Individually, these internationally acclaimed artists have garnered long lists of awards for their many recordings, while their duo album of Brahms' violin sonatas (ODE1284-2) received both an ICMA nomination and was an *AllMusic* Editor's Choice and the *Gramophone* Critics' Choice of the Year. Beethoven introduced stylistically unprecedented elements into all the Op. 30 sonatas, and the fact that they are among the artists' favourite works by the composer augurs well for the excellent reception I know this release will receive.



Opus Arte OA1341D
Richard STRAUSS (1864–1949)
Der Rosenkavalier
 Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Soprano
 Barbara Bonney, Soprano
 Anne Howells, Mezzo-soprano
 Aage Haugland, Bass
 Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
 Royal Opera Chorus

This is a rare opportunity to experience a very special moment in operatic history, when Sir George Solti marked the 25th anniversary of his debut at London's Covent Garden by conducting a truly memorable performance of Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. The recording of that opulent 1985 production by Oscar-winning film director John Schlesinger features Kiri Te Kanawa as The Marschallin, a performance of which *The Financial Times* said: 'This deserves to be ranked ... among her finest achievements.' Further superb performances by Anne Howells (Octavian), Aage Haugland (Baron Ochs) and Barbara Bonney (Sophie) led *The Daily Mail* to conclude: 'Rarely has this luscious, burnished score been realised with such emotional intensity or played with such flowing fervour.' Unreservedly recommended.

Provisional cover. Artwork subject to change.



SWR Classic SWR19111CD
[6-Disc Boxed Set]
Michael Gielen Edition, Vol. 10
 SWR Vokalensemble
 SWR Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden
 und Freiburg
 Radio-Sinfonieorchester
 Stuttgart des SWR
 Michael Gielen

SWR Classic's 10-volume edition of their complete recordings featuring the eminent conductor Michael Gielen reaches its conclusion with this 6-CD boxed set. The programmes are particularly interesting, with over seven hours of repertoire composed post-1945 (two works are by Gielen himself) and several works heard for the first time in their live recordings, including Jorge Lopez's *Dome Peak* that's scored for 82 spatially distributed instrumentalists. Almost all the composers featured on this volume were closely associated with Gielen, who supported them throughout their careers. Consequently, the authority of his interpretations is impeccable. Highly recommended to collectors – all ten volumes, that is!