



CATALOGUE 2013

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Classical music CDs

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ONE AND TWO COMPOSER RECORDINGS

J.S. BACH: ORGAN SONATAS BWV 525-530

Christopher Wrench organ
MR301125 (SACD)

Sonata No. 1 in E flat major, BWV 525

Sonata No. 2 in C minor, BWV 526

Sonata No. 3 in D minor, BWV 527

Sonata No. 4 in E minor, BWV 528

Sonata No. 5 in C major, BWV 529

Sonata No. 6 in G major, BWV 530

"Beautifully crafted, and intelligently played by Bach specialist Wrench, this is music of sheer beauty."

Classic FM Magazine (UK)

"Australian-born organist Christopher Wrench has scored, in terms of commitment, energy, musical poise, and, for want of a better way of putting it, sheer joy in music-making—an unequivocal triumph."

Fanfare (US)

"This goes right to the top of the list for these works..."

Audiophile Audition (US)





J.S. BACH: ORGAN WORKS: THE LEIPZIG CHORALES

John O'Donnell organ
MR301084-2 (2CDs)

"Exemplary"
Gramophone (UK)

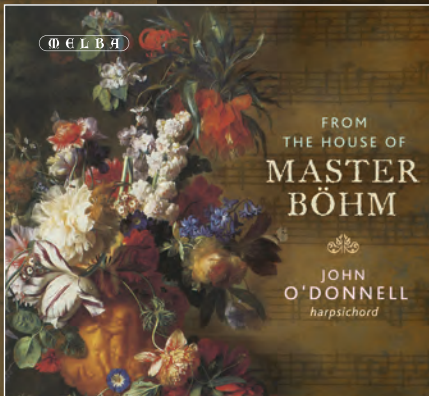
"A musical experience to be treasured"
Organ Pleno (Australia)

"This collection is wide-ranging in conception and expression and is the perfect vehicle for revealing the marvellously diverse colours of the Ahrend. O'Donnell brings his great depth of scholarship to bear on his performances."

The Age 'Green Guide' (Australia)

"The Ahrend organ sings! Its superb tonal voicing ensures that it has enough variety to colour and shape the music, and it has been faithfully recorded, giving a sense of proximity that enhances the intimacy of the ornamented chorales."

24 Hours (Australia)



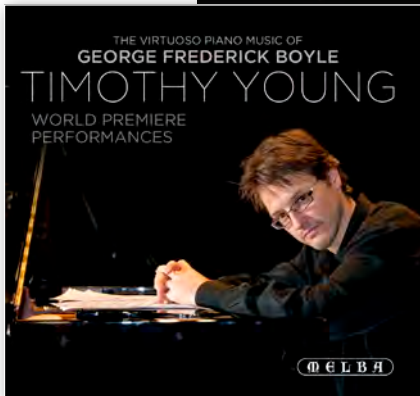
FROM THE HOUSE OF MASTER BÖHM

Georg Böhm
John O'Donnell harpsichord
MR301143 (CD)

Praeludium in G minor
Suite in C minor
Partite sopra "Ach wie nichtig, ach wie flüchtig"
Menuet in G major
Suite in E-flat major
Partite sopra "Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten"
Suite in F minor
Suite in A minor
Ouverture in D major

"O'Donnell's scholarly rigour is reflected not only in his playing, but in the interesting, detailed booklet essay."
Limelight (Australia)

"Splendid...a terrific performance of the great Praeludium in G minor...displays Melba's talent for showcasing local performance."
Pittwater Life (Australia)



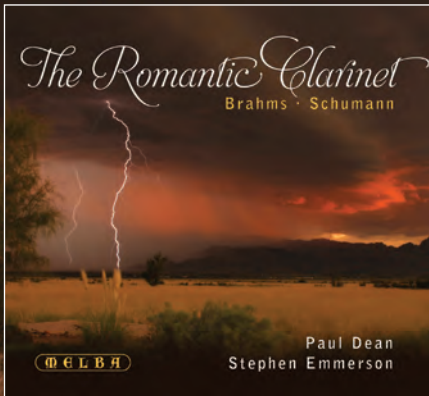
THE VIRTUOSO PIANO MUSIC OF GEORGE FREDERICK BOYLE

World Premiere Performances
Timothy Young *piano*
MR301137 (CD)

The disc includes world premiere recordings of Boyle's Ballade, the Sonata and the Five Piano Pieces.

"Another triumph for Melba...inspired...Timothy Young's debut solo recording for Melba confirms the exceptional promise he showed as an accompanist on marvellous discs of Stravinsky and Koechlin..." **Audiophilia (Canada)**

"a fine introduction to a body of work wholly unknown to all but connoisseurs... For Timothy Young, this is an obvious labor of love, animated by tremendous energy, muscular aplomb, and complete identification. Admiringly recommended." **Fanfare (US)**



THE ROMANTIC CLARINET

Paul Dean *clarinet*

Stephen Emmerson *piano*

MR301138 (CD)

Brahms: *Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120, No.1*

Brahms: *Sonata No. 2 in E-flat major, Op. 120, No.2*

Brahms: *Lieder transcriptions from Acht Lieder und Gesänge, Op. 57:*

Es träumte mir, Op. 57 No 3

Ach, wende diesen Blick, Op. 57 No.4

Unbewegte laue Luft, Op. 57 No.8

Schumann: *Drei Fantasiestücke, Op. 111*

"If you seek the best of nineteenth century music for clarinet and piano, look no further."

Music & Vision Daily (UK)

"Melba's sound quality is clearly superior, rich-toned and very natural sounding—I don't know how they keep doing it, but they do!" **Audiophilia (Canada)**

"The rich sounds of clarinet and piano are captured with uncommon warmth and presence... a master of his instrument" **Classical CD Review (US)**



PAUL DEAN





BENJAMIN BRITTEN: FOLKSONG ARRANGEMENTS

Steve Davislim *tenor*
Simone Young *piano*
MR301120 (SACD)

"I would simply add that Davislim, Young and Melba Recordings have (remarkably) excelled themselves; this release is worth several times its weight in gold."

Music and Vision Daily (UK)

"This is without doubt a disc well worth recommending and a tenor to watch over the next few years."

Web La Opera (Spain)

"Tenor Steve Davislim's timbre and passionate style of singing is often reminiscent of that of Pears in this excellent collection of Britten's folksong arrangements."

New Classics (UK)

"The recording is very alive and sophisticated . . . I loved the smooth, rich sound and lifelike textures . . . Recommended!" **Positive Feedback Online (US)**



LA SOMNAMBULE

Ferdinand Hérold

Orchestra Victoria

Richard Bonyngé *conductor*

MR301087 (SACD)

La somnambule can be considered as the first in the line of the great 19th Century Romantic ballets. Neglected for more than 150 years, Hérold's sparkling score, which precedes Bellini's *La sonnambula* by four years, is gloriously revived in a state-of-the-art Super Audio recording with Orchestra Victoria superbly conducted by Richard Bonyngé.

"How could such fine music as this have remained neglected until now with this première recording? Orchestra Victoria responds intuitively to Bonyngé's direction and delicacy of touch... The SACD sound is excellent."

**MusicWeb International (UK) —
Recording of the Month**

"A fascinating buy... a pleasure to hear... Bonyngé and his orchestra give it a loving and, when needed, fizzing performance, and the recording is clear and well balanced."

Gramophone (UK)

"Not to be missed... brilliant work... to be recommended. Magnificent."

Opus Haute Définition (France)

VOLUPTÉ

Music for viola and piano
Charles Koechlin & Joseph Jongen

Roger Benedict *viola*

Timothy Young *piano*

Ben Jacks *horn*

MR301126 (CD)

**** A Top Ten Album of 2010****

The Classical Review (UK)

"Voluptuous indeed are the sounds embedded in this recording of music from the fin de siècle. . . Benedict captures the music's elusive atmosphere, dressing it in the velvety sounds of his Testore and taking the occasional virtuoso flights easily in his stride. Melba's sound and presentation are equally attractive."

The Strad (UK)

"...a truly outstanding recital, magnificently recorded... It takes a giant imaginative leap to recall or envisage a more superlative, commanding viola and piano recital than Volupté. This release is one of Melba Recordings' loveliest unchallenged winners."

Music and Vision Daily (UK)





ASHER FISCH

Liszt Wagner Paraphrases

Meistersinger, Der Fliegende Holländer, Tannhäuser,
Lohengrin, Tristan und Isolde

Asher Fisch *piano*

MR301141 (CD)

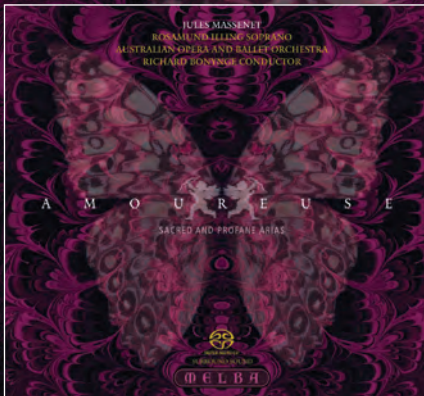
"LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT: Classiquenews' Top 5 CDs of the year list and a "coup de cœur de l'été 2012". Guaranteed to go straight to your heart!"

Classique News (France)

"Again Fisch proves that he is very much inside the idiom as a pianist... Melba's recording is in the demonstration class..." **MusicWeb International (UK)**

"A joy to hear...Fisch plays with a vengeance, while retaining the steady pulse of a conductor."

HBL (Finland)



AMOUREUSE SACRED AND PROFANE ARIAS

Rosamund Illing *soprano*
Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra
Richard Bonyngne *conductor*
MR301106 (SACD)

"Massenet was the musical historian of the female soul, his music is vibrant with sensations and embraces which we wish would last forever."
(Claude Debussy)

Featuring arias from *Ariane*, *Cherubin*, *Le Cid*, *Eve*, *La Grand' Tante*, *Grisélidis*, *Hérodiade*, *Marie Magdalene*, *Sapho* and *La Vierge*.

"An indispensable CD of Massenet rarities. . . worth your while to put the record straight away on the shopping list. Most of the items are rarities, some unpublished, all attractive. The performances are excellent."

Gramophone (UK)

"Illing has an excellent voice, capable of delicate, light touches. . . The recording is first rate, with the orchestra full and lush—as it must be in Massenet—but never obscuring the voice. . . Anyone who is enthusiastic about Massenet's music will want this CD for certain."

International Record Review (UK)



RICHARD BONYNGE



DELUXE WIDESCREEN PRESENTATION



narrated by Richard Bonyng
with
Dame Joan Sutherland
Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra
Thomas Hampson
Rosamund Illing



MASSENET: HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

55 minute documentary film

Richard Bonyng (Narrator)

Rosamund Illing, Richard Bonyng and the Australian
Opera & Ballet Orchestra

MR2000 (DVD)

"...a cogent argument for Massenet's enduring popularity."

Opera Now (UK)

*"...masterly piece of film which establishes a standard for
the future of music documentaries."* **The Age (Australia)**

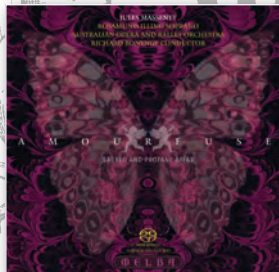
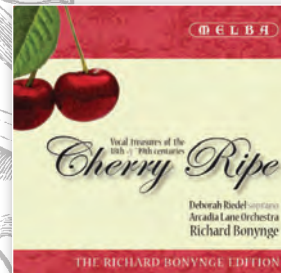
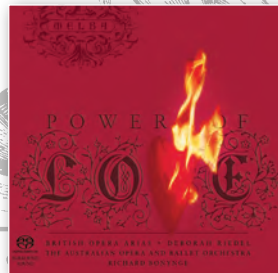
*"...technically, one of the finest DVDs I've seen...absolute
demonstration quality and it was done here in Australia."*

The Bulletin (Australia)

*"Like having Grove's Dictionary of Music & Musicians
come to life...keep Massenet's candle burning bright."*

24 Hours (Australia)

**THE RICHARD BONYNGE
EDITION**



SUBLIME MOZART

Works for Clarinet

Paul Dean *clarinet*

The Queensland Orchestra

Guillaume Tourniaire *conductor*

Grainger Quartet

MR301122 (SACD)

"Sublime Mozart indeed! . . . as near perfection as one could ever expect to hear."

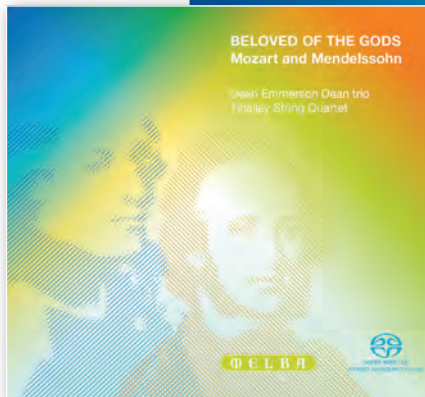
SA-CD. NET (UK)

"Paul Dean shapes the lovely melodic arches in both works with a sure musical instinct, producing a rich, mellow tone and manifesting exceptional control—the softest notes always speak without a hint of breathiness. . . . As is typical of this label, the packaging is lavish."

The Absolute Sound (US)

"Outstanding performances, recorded with Melba's usual rich sonics. The release lives up to its title: Sublime Mozart..." **Classical CD Review (US)**





BELOVED OF THE GODS

Mozart and Mendelssohn

Dean Emmerson Dean trio

Tinalley String Quartet

MR301121 (SACD)

Mozart: *Trio for Clarinet, Viola & Piano in E flat major, K498, 'Kegelstatt'*

Mozart arr. Emmerson: *Papamina Suite*

Mendelssohn: *String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Op. 13, 'Ist es wahr?'*

"The whole performance of this wonderful work is a delight, and one would be hard pressed to identify any finer version from the many CD recordings available."

SA-CD.NET (UK)

"His string quartets are hardly lacking in recordings, though I'll wager that truly great ones are in short supply, and this one's certainly that. . . Melba's production values are splendid as usual—some of the best in the business. . . add to it the angelic playing of these performers, you have an hour in heaven for sure."

Fanfare (US)



PUCCINI = PASSION

Cheryl Barker *soprano*
Orchestra Victoria
Richard Bonyng *conductor*
MR301110 (SACD)

"Barker is known as a highly skilled and committed singer who gives her all on the stage... her tone, support of the voice and vocal characterisation is a joy... Barker's interpretations make as satisfying a disc of this demanding repertoire as I have heard in a long time." **MusicWeb International (UK)**—
CD OF THE MONTH

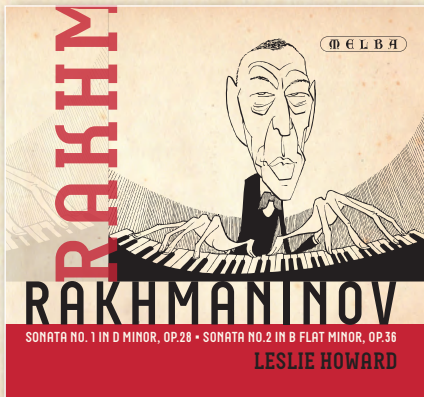
"We can savour Cheryl Barker's true verismo art... there's more than sufficient within the Passion selection to recommend unstintingly." **Music and Vision (UK)**

"Cheryl Barker... takes the listener to the emotional heart of the music." **Opus Haute Définition (France)**



CHERYL BARKER





RAKHMANINOV

Sonata No.1 in D minor, Op. 28

Sonata No.2 in B Flat minor, Op. 36

Leslie Howard *piano*

MR301127 (CD)

"Uniquely compelling, powerfully shaped, and always in total deference to the composer. . . In a very crowded field, this is standout Rachmaninoff playing, and an easy entry on my 2011 wish list."

Fanfare (US)

"[Leslie Howard] brings to these recordings an authoritative understanding of Czarist, Communist and exile Russian society and its music, wedded throughout to a staggering technique. . . A final word for Melba: the Leslie Howard release epitomizes the company's outstanding production values with its superior audio, quality packaging and innovative presentation."

Music and Vision (UK)

"Howard's performances are the finest yet issued of these major works. The recording quality matches that of the performances."

International Record Review (UK)



TZIGANE

Music for Violin, Cello and Piano by Maurice Ravel

Kristian Winther violin

Anthony Romaniuk piano

Michelle Wood cello

MR301115 (SACD)

"A degree of perfection that would be difficult to surpass. . . this disc is absolutely indispensable."
Mundo Clasico (Spain)

"All three bring exuberant and fresh artistry to the celebrated pieces Deux mélodies hébraïques, Pièce en forme de Habanera, Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2, the rarely performed Sonata for Violin and Cello and the title work, Tzigane. These world-class performances of Ravel's exciting and colourful music are recorded in superb SACD sound and the elegant packaging, including a 34-page illustrated booklet, is of Melba's usual high standard."

New Classics (UK)

"Winther really tears into the gypsy rhapsody with gusto—more than I've heard from any other recording of the work."

★★★★★ **Audiophile Audition (US)**



ELAN

Ballet Music from Operas by Saint-Saëns
World premiere recording of music from
Ascanio, Etienne Marcel, Les Barbares
Orchestra Victoria
Guillaume Tourniaire *conductor*
MR301130 (SACD)

World Premieres

"This is one of those recordings that, from the moment the first notes emerge from your speakers, you know is going to be a winner, and for lovers of 19th century ballet music it will surely be a mandatory acquisition." ★★★★★
SA-CD.NET (UK)

"Melba's usual exemplary sound perfectly frames performances of impressive feeling and impeccable fluidity... another remarkable find from an increasingly essential label. A strong contender for my disc of the year." ★★★★★
The Classical Review (US)

"...the intelligence and rarity of the program are all quite enchanting." **Diapason (France)**

"It would be hard to imagine better performances...Guillaume Tourniaire and his orchestra bring it off perfectly...a winner."
Fanfare (US)



GUILLAUME TOURNIAIRE





HÉLÈNE | NUIT PERSANE

Camille Saint-Saëns
MR301114-2 (2 SACDs)

"Unparalleled, ground-breaking standards in the production, presentation, packaging and design...top of its class." **Music and Vision Daily (UK)**

Opus d'or Award "... this beautiful recording on double SACD will leave no one unmoved."

Opus Haute Définition (France)

"A release that all lovers of French music should have in their collection."

Classica-Répertoire (France)

"Off they sail to Asia and immortal infamy while Guillaume Tourniaire, who has maintained the musical tension throughout, steers the Orchestra Victoria to triumph... this [Nuit Persane] sumptuous half-hour of French hothouse decadence will leave the susceptible swooning."

Opera (UK)

"Rosamund Illing's Hélène is womanly and heroic; as her warrior-lover, Steve Davislim is suitably ardent. Conductor Guillaume Tourniaire moves things along with real dramatic thrust."

The Absolute Sound (US)



WINTERREISE

Franz Schubert

Steve Davislim tenor

Anthony Romaniuk piano

MR301119 (SACD)

"A spell-binding and compulsive performance...a Winterreise worthy to be counted amongst the best."

★★★★★ **SA-CD.NET (UK)**

"...the work of a masterful singer...a performance of Winterreise that ranks with the finest I have heard."

Fanfare (US)

"A spell-binding and compulsive performance... a Winterreise worthy to be counted amongst the best."

★★★★★ **SA-CD.NET (UK)**

"Without further ado let me say Steve Davislim's account of Schubert's grippingly abject Winterreise cycle is a deeply felt, superbly cogent performance; a credit to tenor, pianist, and Melba's recording team... Steve Davislim and Anthony Romaniuk have earned a place among the highest achievers in Schubert's finest lied creation."

Music and Vision (UK)

"Australian tenor Steve Davislim... is an extraordinary artist who has it all... This recording of Schubert's Winterreise is outstanding displaying the same qualities that distinguished his recent disc of Strauss lieder."

Classical CD Review (US)

SHOSTAKOVICH: SYMPHONY NO.10

The Australian Youth Orchestra
Alexander Anissimov conductor
MR301105 (SACD)

"The audio presentation possesses transparency without seeming at all analytical. There's plenty of high-resolution competition with this work, but none that's superior to Melba's, in terms of performance or sonics."

**The Absolute Sound (USA) —
Golden Ear Award 2007**

"Don't let the fact that there is a 'Youth Orchestra' involved here put you off. This is a first-rate performance of Shostakovich's 10th Symphony... those who love the piece and also acknowledge the potential for great sound to promote the Tenth's essential message shouldn't hesitate to acquire this SACD."

Fanfare (US)

"Powerful, without weakness... the result is stunning. This recording is a major achievement."

La France Catholique (France)





THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

Roger Smalley Chamber Works

Australian String Quartet

Darryl Poulsen horn

Paul Wright violin

Roger Smalley piano

MR301112 (CD)

"Smalley is neither parodist nor plunderer. He engages earnestly with an orthodox version of European musical history, filtering the authority of the Romantics through that of his own experience. With scrupulous craft and a troubled sense of restored tonality, Smalley tests the possibility of continuities between a past and current contexts."

The Guardian (UK)

In years to come this disc will also have documentary historic significance. . . A stunningly vivid recording of three rewarding contemporary works."

Music Web International (UK)



SEDUCTION

Songs by Richard Strauss

Steve Davislim tenor

State Orchestra of Victoria

Simone Young conductor

MR301108 (SACD)

"This is a superlative disc. . . Davislim is robust and luxurious. . . This is one of the loveliest Strauss discs to come along in many years — and anyone who enjoys the composer's way with words and music shouldn't miss it." **(AllMusic Guide USA)**

"A real pleasure. . . [Davislim's] pliant and supple phrasing, his clear love of singing this music, and the remarkable partnership he and Simone Young forge in this music communicate so fully to the listener that it is impossible to turn away from it. . . this is a very enthusiastic recommendation."

Fanfare (US)

"An outstanding recital by an excellent young tenor singing superb Strauss. . . [Davislim] is worth being spoken of in the same breath as his notable predecessors of similar voice — Peter Anders and Fritz Wunderlich — praise can hardly be higher than that."
Gramophone (UK)



**STEVE DAVISLIM &
SIMONE YOUNG**





STRAVINSKY DIVERSIONS

Music for Violin and Piano

Ray Chen violin

Timothy Young piano

MR301128 (CD)

Suite after themes, fragments and pieces by

Giambattista Pergolesi (1925)

Divertimento (1934)

Duo concertant (1932)

Chanson russe (Russian Maiden's Song) (1937)

Danse russe (1921)

"An irresistible recital of Stravinsky's arrangements for violin and piano... The Danse russe, of course, comes from the Petrushka and sounds catchily, rhythmically spicy here in the hands of this illustrious partnership... Throughout this highly stimulating programme, Ray Chen (with just the right characterful timbre) and Timothy Young, whose glittering pianistic upper range catches the ear again, make a superb partnership... An excellent, truthful recording balance, good notes and handsome packaging make this disc irresistible."

Gramophone (UK)

"These are extraordinarily compelling and musically very satisfying reinterpretations of Stravinsky's music."

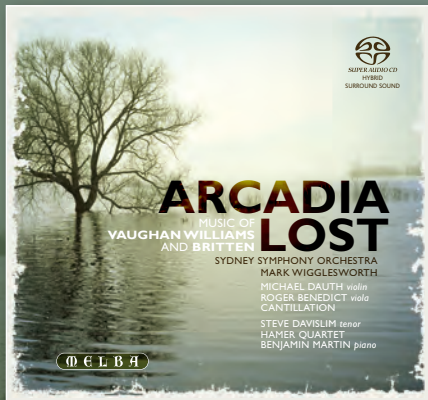
BBC Music Magazine (UK)

"An outstandingly well played and well recorded recital of enjoyable pieces. Another winner from Melba."

Music Web International (UK)

TIMOTHY YOUNG





ARCADIA LOST

Music of Vaughan Williams and Britten

Michael Dauth *violin*
Roger Benedict *viola*
Cantillation
Sydney Symphony Orchestra
Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

Steve Davislim *tenor*
Hamer Quartet
Benjamin Martin *piano*
MR301131 (SACD)

Vaughan Williams: *The Lark Ascending* (1914-20)
Vaughan Williams: *Flos Campi* (1924-25)
Benjamin Britten: *Sinfonia da Requiem* (1940)
Vaughan Williams: *On Wenlock Edge* (1906-09)

Opus d'or: FEATURED CD OF THE MONTH "Here is a beautiful little gem of a release from the remarkable Australian Melba label...unmissable...one of the most beautiful SACDs from the start of 2012." **Opus Haute Définition (France)**

"This is an exquisitely musical and splendidly atmospheric disc...Indeed, I would place these performances of *The Lark Ascending* and *Flos Campi* as far and away the most exquisite, deeply felt, I would even say spiritual performances of these works I've ever heard." **Fanfare (US)**



ROGER BENEDICT



TURBULENT HEART

Music of Vienne & Chausson

Steve Davislim *tenor*

The Queensland Orchestra

Guillaume Tourniaire *conductor*

MR301123 (SACD)

Vienne: *Les Djinns*, Op. 35

Vienne: *Eros*, Op. 37

Vienne: *Ballade du désespéré*, Op. 61

Vienne: *Pysché*, Op. 33

Chausson: *Poème de l'amour et de la mer*, Op. 19

Le Prix Gabriel Fauré—for best interpretation—
l'Académie du Disque Lyrique

****Le Diamant d'Opéra**** (Special Commendation,
Opéra magazine)

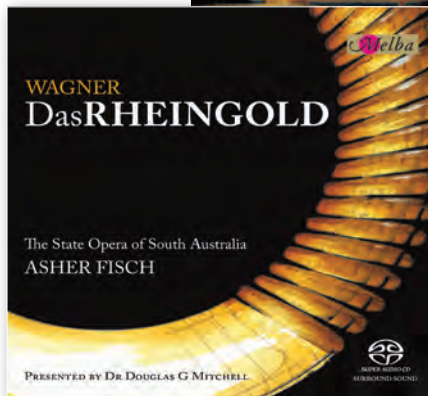
Gramophone (UK) 'Editor's Choice'

Classic FM Magazine (UK) 'Editor's Choice'

"A revelation and one of the highlights of the start of 2010...One cannot overstate the ideal understanding of this music—coming after Hélène and Nuit persane on the same label—that...Guillaume Tourniaire shows here. . . he heads a magnificent orchestra that is cohesive and replete with individual colours...there can be only one imperative—Discover!"

****Le Diamant d'Opéra****—**Opéra (France)**





WAGNER: DAS RHEINGOLD

John Bröcheler *Wotan*

John Wegner *Alberich*

Richard Greager *Mime*

Elizabeth Campbell *Fricka*

The State Opera of South Australia

Asher Fisch *conductor*

MR301089-90 (2 SACDs)

"This production features above all the conducting of Asher Fisch, whose command of the musical architecture is truly impressive..."

Performance / Sound: ★★★★★

Opus (Canada)

"This is one of the most viscerally propulsive Rheingolds on disc. A large part of the credit goes to Fisch and the exemplary playing of the Adelaide Symphony. The orchestra has a gorgeous, warm sound..."

Performance / Sound: ★★★★★

AllMusic Guide (US)

"This recording has much to recommend it...Above all, there's Asher Fisch's conducting, expansive and lyrical...with splendid playing from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. And the almost entirely Australian cast rise admirably to the challenge."

Sound: ★★★★★

BBC Music Magazine (UK)

"This Rheingold recording is a great achievement...Fisch's direction is fluid and energetic..."

Opus Haute Définition (France) —

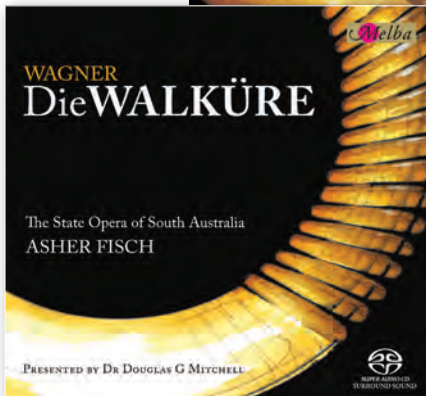
Opus d'or award

"The sound is gorgeous...The packaging sets an industry standard."

American Record Guide (US)

ASHER FISCH





WAGNER: DIE WALKÜRE

Stuart Skelton *Siegmond*
Deborah Riedel *Sieglinde*
Richard Green *Hunding*
John Bröcheler *Wotan*
Lisa Gasteen *Brünnhilde*
The State Opera of South Australia
Asher Fisch conductor
MR301091-94 (4 SACDs)

*"As ground-breaking as Georg Solti's 1959–66
Decca recording."* **Bloomberg (US)**

"A significant moment in the history of opera."
Opera (UK)

"Worthy of the latest Bayreuth productions."
Classique News (France)

*"Technically superb. . . some of the most remarkable
playing I've ever heard. . . Sound quality 10/10."*
Classics Today (US)

*"The performance is matched by rich SACD sound—
warm, full, smooth, with great clarity and perfect
balance between all the forces. The Ring could not get a
better introduction to SACD. ★★★★★"*
Acoustic Sounds (US)

*"The clearest and most well-balanced operatic recording
I have heard. . . a defining moment for the high
resolution audio format. . . Sonics: ★★★★★"*
SA-CD.NET (UK)

WAGNER: SIEGFRIED

Gary Ridout *Siegfried*

Lisa Gasteen *Brünnhilde*

Richard Greager *Mime*

John Bröcheler *Wotan*

Liane Keegan *Erda*

The State Opera of South Australia

Asher Fisch *conductor*

MR301095-98 (4 SACDs)

"It is immediately evident what a superb Wagnerian the company has in Asher Fisch... the most sheerly enjoyable Siegfried...made excitingly vivid in multi-channel SACD. Performance and Sound: ★★★★★"

BBC Music Magazine (UK)

BBC Music Choice: Opera

"This Siegfried is something else...a performance that grows from quality beginnings into something special...Fisch's conducting underpins every moment of this great performance. ★★★★★"

Classic FM Magazine (UK)

Opera Disc of the Month

"As it moves towards its ending, the Adelaide Ring assumes an increasingly imposing profile."

Gramophone (UK)

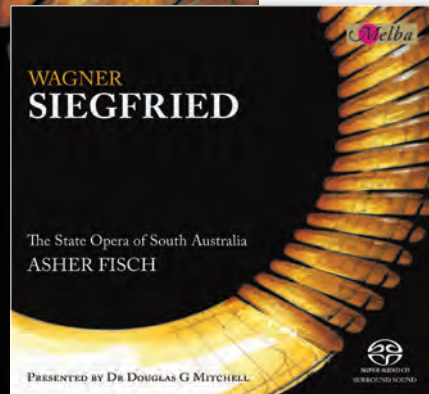
"A 'must own' recording...the perfect album to sample just how realistic a multi-channel SACD can sound..."

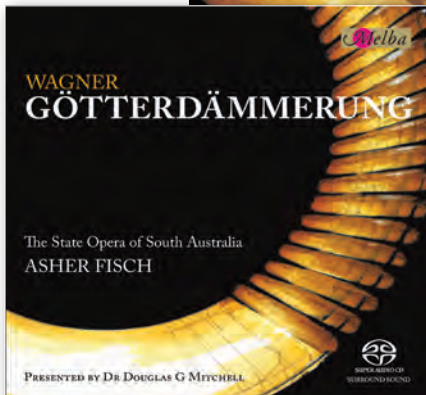
Performance and Sonics: ★★★★★

SA-CD.NET (UK)

"Melba's stunning warmth and clarity of sound ensure that the continuous web of leitmotives supporting the vocal lines is always in evidence...Performance and Sound: ★★★★★"

Opus (Canada)





WAGNER: GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

Timothy Mussard *Siegfried*
Lisa Gasteen *Brünnhilde*
Duccio dal Monte *Hagen*
Jonathan Summers *Gunther*
Joanna Cole *Gutrune*
The State Opera of South Australia
Asher Fisch *conductor*
MR301099-102 (4 SACDs)

"A significant moment in the history of opera."
Opera (UK)

"Sensationally recorded...the best-sounding cycle on the market to date, bar none." **Gramophone (UK)**

"The superb Australian tetralogy is completed with the release of the fourth box set devoted to Götterdämmerung...in unrivalled sound that carries the listener right into the theatre." **Anacalse (France)**

"The orchestra virtually matches its counterparts in Vienna, Berlin and New York...Asher Fisch has shown himself to be a Wagnerian of the highest order. . . Performance: ★★★★★ / Sound: ★★★★★"
Opus (Canada)

"Superb, live-wire playing from every orchestral department. . . outstanding. . . as good as you'll get. The chorus sings out of its collective skin [and] Asher Fisch conducts and shapes the work's huge trajectory with the surest touch. ★★★★★"
Classic FM Magazine (UK) —
Opera and Vocal Disc of the Month

WAGNER: DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN Highlights

The State Opera of South Australia

Asher Fisch conductor

MR301133-34 (2 SACDs)

"A sonic experience that is overwhelming. . . the balance is impeccable...Asher Fisch has the full measure of the work." **MusicWeb International (UK)**

★★★★ 4 stars performance/★★★★★ 4½ stars
sound this remarkable Australian achievement...this
compelling Australian Ring ★★★★★ **SA-CD.NET**
(UK)

"...under Asher Fisch's inspired conducting. . . a powerful, solid presentation of Wagner's masterpiece."

Classical CD Review (US)

*"...the remarkable Melba recordings featuring Asher Fisch...
thrilling performances...Immaculately recorded"*

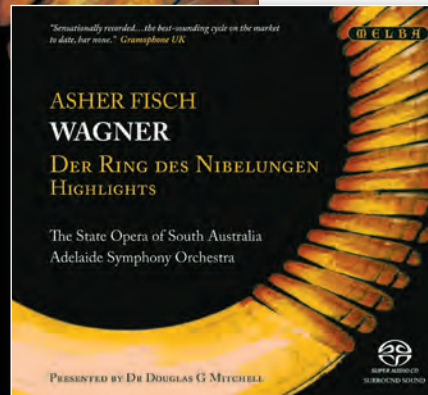
New Classics (UK)

*"Spectacular sound; deserves many accolades...Take a bow,
Maestro Fisch"* **Otago Daily Times (NZ)**

*"...the nicest thing that any music lover could find in their
stocking this Xmas!"* **Audiophilia (Canada)**

*"the Siegmund of Stuart Skelton really impressed us...worth
seeking out."* **Forum Opera (France)**

"...accolades enthused at Melba's sonic excellence..."
Music and Vision Daily (UK)



LISA GASTEEN





A LOTUS BLOSSOMING

Zemlinsky and Messiaen
Ensemble Liaison
MR301132 (CD)

"(Zemlinsky) an impassioned and committed performance...(Messiaen) a distinguished and utterly idiomatic performance. The visionary elements are searingly drawn...a fascinating juxtaposition of two dramatically different works both convincingly delivered by these astute players." **The Classical Review (UK)**

"Ensemble Liaison, with Wilma Smith on the additional violin for the Messiaen, plays them both with an innate sense of style and finely calibrated emotion. (Zemlinsky) is inhabiting the succulent world of late Romanticism, with a greater leaning towards rhetorical gestures, while still using Brahms as a guide to question of design. (Messiaen's) scintillas of melody in the opening...are conveyed in evocative whispers by the Ensemble Liaison." **Gramophone (UK)**



RECITAL RECORDINGS



THE ART OF NANCE GRANT

Nance Grant *soprano*
Geoffrey Parsons *piano*
with various orchestras and conductors
MR301135-36 (2 CDs)

An important historic recording which demonstrates the artistry of the exceptional Australian soprano **Nance Grant**.

On this two disc set, we hear her in recital with pianist Geoffrey Parsons, and singing arias with four Australian orchestras.

The collection includes music by Mozart, Donizetti, Beethoven, Wagner and Strauss.

CD 1: Nance Grant & Geoffrey Parsons in Recital
Featuring music by Grieg, Hageman and Strauss

CD 2: Nance Grant—Arias, Opera and Oratorio
Featuring music by Mozart, Donizetti, Beethoven, Wagner, Strauss and Mendelssohn

"...Nance Grant was the owner of one of the more important voices of the 20th century...beautiful, soaring lines..." **Das Opernglas (Germany)**

"Distinctive vocal qualities of a very high order."
MusicWeb International (UK)

"opulent timbre...a luminous top in a perfect blend of registers...More please!" **Forum Opéra (France)**

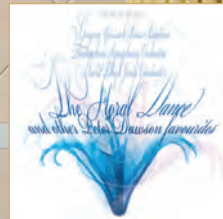
"Her Ariadne is magnificent—this is regal singing that soars through Strauss's vocal demands with ease."
Fanfare (US)

One CD guaranteed to get him singing in the bath...

For the bathroom baritone in your life

The Floral Dance and other Peter Dawson Favourites,
sung by Gregory Yurisich with the Tasmanian Symphony
Orchestra and David Lloyd Jones

MR301109



BACK FROM OBLIVION

Ophicleide recital

Nick Byrne ophicleide

David Miller piano

MR301111 (CD)

"A wonderful CD. . . superb musicality. . . a great and diverse program played by a great artist. Bravissimo Nick Byrne!"

Roger Bobo (TubaNews / Blogspot (Japan))

"Byrne provides a tour-de-force...together with accompanist, David Miller, they wear their learning and virtuosity lightly. The result is a highly enjoyable and entertaining recital which reveals the immense possibilities of a neglected instrument."

MusicWeb International (UK)

"The instrument is expertly handled by Nick Byrne... one of the leading exponents of the ophicleide today... This amazing disc is full of great pieces...and gets our highest recommendation."

Just for Brass (US)



DAGNELIES, PROCTOR,
DAGNELIES, PROCTOR,



BELIEVE IN LOVE

Rare French and Italian Opera Arias

Elizabeth Whitehouse soprano

Orchestra Victoria

Richard Bonyngne conductor

MR301104 (SACD)

"Elizabeth Whitehouse brings intelligence, passion, and a strong interpretive personality to the arias... with an attractive, light lyric voice that's agile and expressive... Richard Bonyngne leads Orchestra Victoria in elegant and passionate accompaniment. Melba's sound is excellent—clear and present."

Performance: ★★★★★ / Sound: ★★★★★

AllMusic Guide (US)

"Whitehouse makes a good case for these works... there is no one on earth more qualified to lead such a project than Bonyngne. The sound is excellent with good depth... The packaged presentation of the Australian label is a model of its kind."

Audiophile Audition (US)

BENAUD TRIO

Piano Trios by Edwards, Stanhope, Hindson, Buc

Amir Farid *piano*

Lachlan Bramble *violin*

Ewen Bramble *cello*

MR3011389 (CD)

Ross Edwards: *Piano Trio* (1998)

Paul Stanhope: *Piano Trio 'Dolcissimo Uscignolo'* (2007)

Matthew Hindson: *Piano Trio* (2007)

Nicholas Buc: *Trailer Music* (2009)

"The Australian Benaud Trio offer superb performances on their debut disc." **Gramophone (UK)**

"Music lovers who by-pass the kaleidoscope of moods inherent in such riveting premiers will be missing out on a CD of exceptional providence."

Music and Vision Daily (UK)

"This Australian trio (Benaud) delights with its precision and youthful vitality. It plays sparkling chamber music by four compatriots, who prove they are highly innovative and entertaining composers. Don't miss this disc!" **Otago Daily Times (NZ)**

"All the works have been cleverly arranged and programmed, with each subsequent piece more challenging and complex than the last...What lingers is the feeling of endless ideas and confidence in these composers' bright, unprissy writing...Sound is bright and forward, matching the young drive and talent of the performers...this disc is a real charmer."
Fanfare (US)



BENAUD TRIO



Lachlan Bramble (violin), Amir Farid (piano) and Ewen Bramble (cello)



BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Music by Bedřich Smetana, Antonin Dvořák,
Freddie Mercury

Amir Farid, *piano*

Ewen Bramble, *cello*

Lachlan Bramble, *violin*

MR301142 (CD)

Smetana: *Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15*

Dvořák: *Piano Trio in E minor, 'Dumky', Op. 90*

Freddie Mercury: *Bohemian Rhapsody*

(arr Nicholas Buc)

"Throughout both Czech works the Benaud Trio offers committed music making blessed with state-of-the-art sound engineering...fine, glowing performance by Amir, Lachlan and Ewen (The Benaud)."

Music & Vision Daily (UK)

"This trio performs serious music most impressively... As usual Melba enhances the performances with immaculate sound recording, deluxe packaging and notes"

Otago Daily Times (NZ)



CHERRY RIPE

Vocal treasures of the 18th and 19th centuries

Deborah Riedel *soprano*

Arcadia Lane Orchestra

Richard Bonyngé *conductor*

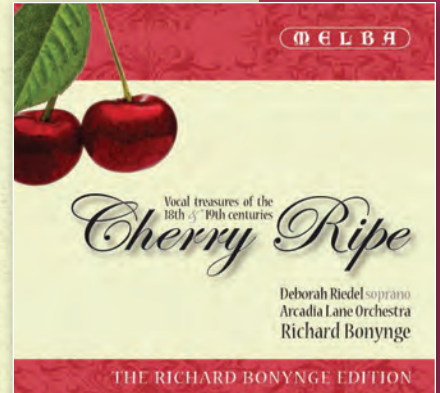
MR301118 (CD)

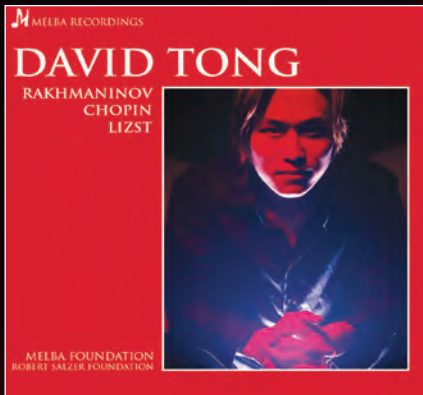
"This enchanting journey into neglected musical byways makes a fitting tribute to Deborah Riedel...Her gorgeous voice brings great warmth and tenderness to these charming songs."

New Classics (UK)

"A unique, timeless recording."

Forum Opéra (France)





DAVID TONG

Rakhmaninov, Chopin, Liszt

David Tong piano

MR301086 (CD)

Rakhmaninov: *Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 36*

Rakhmaninov: *Dix Préludes, Op. 23 No. 5 in G minor*

Rakhmaninov: *Treize Préludes, Op. 32 No. 5 in G major*

Chopin: *Scherzo No. 3 in C sharp minor, Op. 39*

Chopin: *Douze Études, Op. 10, No. 1 in C major*

Liszt: *'Gondoliera', 'Canzone' and 'Tarantella'*

from Venezia e Napoli, S162

Liszt: *Der Tanz in der Dorfschenke, Erster Mephisto-Walzer, S515*

Liszt: *Douze Études d'exécution transcendante, No. 8 in C minor 'Wilde Jagd', S137*

"One of the best pianists of his generation."

Klassik-Musik (Germany)

"Four international pianists, including two Russians, are gathered in a room, listening to an unidentified CD. 'Guess that pianist' is the game. 'Horowitz's power!' declares one. 'No, Gilels's passion,' comes a retort. 'For sheer poetry, it has to be Richter,' asserts another. All wrong! Try the young David Tong. . . There is something spectral and spooky here: how can someone so young have such insight into and command of this hallowed keyboard tradition? The clarity and acuity of his musical perception, buttressed by buckets of technique, bespeak a musical maturity in volcanically hot property that has confounded the experts. ★★★★★ "

The Australian (Australia)



DAVID TONG



ENCORE MY GOOD SIR

Lin Jiang *horn*
Benjamin Martin *piano*
MR301116 (CD)

"Lin has an irreproachable technique: his tone is warm, round and burnished, his attacks are immaculate, and he has the agility to make even the most treacherous of these works sound thrillingly spontaneous and practically effortless."

AllMusic Guide (US)

"In all, a remarkable talent and a delightful disc."

MusicWeb International (UK)

"One of the most exciting horn soloists of his generation. . . it's a surefire winner."

Music and Vision Daily (UK)

"...a splendid, wide-ranging recital...Lin Jiang's horn-playing is technically dazzling; nothing seems beyond him, from scales of the utmost rapidity to wide-ranging leaps and the aggressive whoops and splats that pepper some of the pieces. His dynamic range is impressive, extending from feathery pianissimo to full-throated forte; his intonation is always precise; his tone, luscious. Benjamin Martin (is) an excellent pianist, in energetic, sensitive, and nuanced performances."

Fanfare (US)



LIN JIANG





THE FLORAL DANCE AND OTHER PETER DAWSON FAVOURITES

Gregory Yurisich *bass-baritone*
Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra
David Lloyd-Jones *conductor*
MR301109 (SACD)

*"Superbly sung by bass-baritone Gregory Yurisich...
This is a class production, highly recommended."*

Classical CD Review (US)

*"The songs are sung with good clarity and
delivered at a comfortably brisk pace... an ideal CD to
bring memories of yesteryear flooding back... Gregory
Yurisich sings with style and precision... resembles a
Robson in timbre, wide compass and powerful delivery."*

MusicWeb International (UK)



THE GALANT BASSOON

Matthew Wilkie *bassoon*
Neal Peres Da Costa *harpsichord*
Kees Boersma *double bass*
MR301124 (SACD)

Telemann: *Sonata in E minor, TWV 41:e5*
J.S. Bach: *Sonata in E minor, BWV 1030*
Telemann: *Sonata in A minor, TWV 41:a6*
J.S. Bach: *Sonata in A minor, BWV 1034*
Telemann: *Sonata in F minor, TWV 41:f1*

"Beginning with Telemann's Sonata in E Minor we are immediately bathed in the succulent sounds of deep double-bass, crisp harpsichord, and Matthew Wilkie's superb bassoon playing. It's like a wonderful expensive

restaurant dish, full of different layers of flavour and textures to tease the palette. Throughout this disc Wilkie transcends all technical problems and delivers sheer musical joy and panache. His sound is round and mellifluous...People who ignore this disc merely because it's played on bassoon are missing one of the best chamber music discs I've heard in a long time."

MusicWeb International (UK)

"...this is a recital of high-quality music performed with considerable expertise and musicality. . . the playing of it (bassoon) is sympathetic and stylish, enhanced by a sweetly singing high register."

Gramophone (UK)

"Matthew Wilkie...brings out completely the rich palette of expressive effects of which his surpassing instrument is capable. . ."

Classique News (France)

GOTHIC TOCCATA

The Melbourne Town Hall Grand Organ

Calvin Bowman organ

PD70001 (CD)

"Bowman displays a fine command of these thorny scores, and allows listeners the chance to experience the full range of sonorities possible with this instrument."

American Record Guide (US)

"Especially rewarding"

BBC Music Magazine (UK)

"An attractively varied survey of Australian music... the booklet notes are especially valuable... Bowman shows the versatility as well as the power of his instrument, and the sound quality of the recording is good."

The Organ (UK)





GRAND

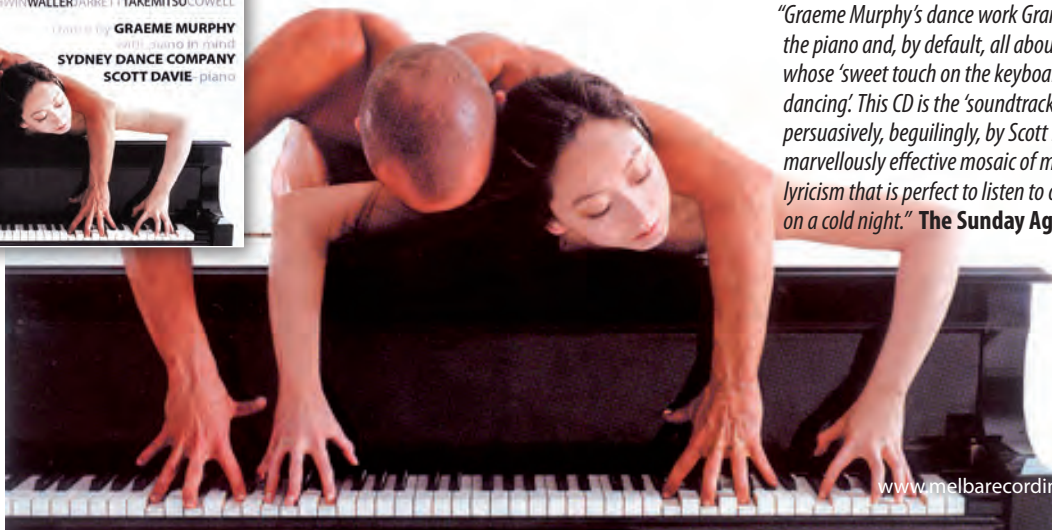
Dance by Graeme Murphy

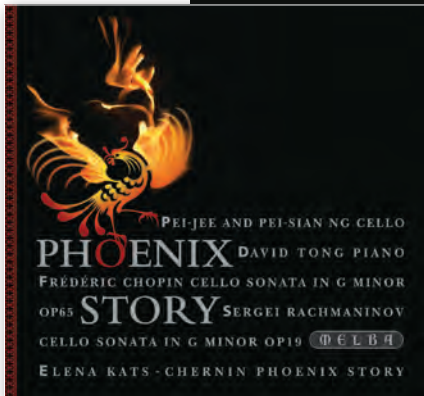
Scott Davie *piano*

MR301088 (CD)

Featuring music by Arlen and Harburg (arr. Jarrett), J.S. Bach, Beethoven, Cowell, Debussy, Gershwin, Ginastera, Ligeti, Liszt, Ravel, Shostakovich, Skryabin, Takemitsu, Villa-Lobos and Fats Waller.

"Graeme Murphy's dance work Grand was all about the piano and, by default, all about his mother, whose 'sweet touch on the keyboard set my baby feet dancing'. This CD is the 'soundtrack' of the ballet, played persuasively, beguilingly, by Scott Davie. . . It is a marvellously effective mosaic of movement and lyricism that is perfect to listen to on long journeys or on a cold night." **The Sunday Age (Australia)**





PHOENIX STORY

Chopin, Rachmaninov, Kats-Chernin

Pei-Jee Ng *cello*

Pei-Sian Ng *cello*

David Tong *piano*

MR301113 (CD)

Chopin: *Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65*

Rachmaninov: *Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19*

Kats-Chernin: *Phoenix Story* (2007)

*"The resulting performance is stunningly successful...
I couldn't have stood much more passion."*

Fanfare (US)

*"All three artists show impressive technical
accomplishment; Tong is entirely at home with the
virtuoso aspects of both sonatas, and the twins both
possess beautiful, well centred, expressive tone."*

Gramophone (UK)





PEI-JEE & PEI-SIAN NG



POWER OF LOVE

British Opera Arias

Deborah Riedel *soprano*

The Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra

Richard Bonyngé *conductor*

MR301107 (SACD)

"This is repertoire that will seduce you...Deborah Riedel, supported by Bonyngé's sparkling accompaniment, embarks on the journey with conviction...her voice weaves a beautiful fabric."

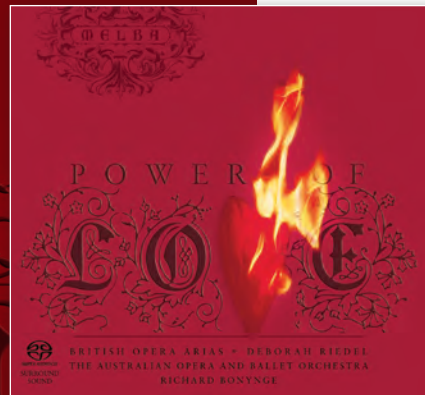
4 Diapasons

Diapason (France)

"Any lover of Romantic opera should have this disc, and will derive much pleasure from it...these are lovely performances of some gorgeous and little-known music." **Fanfare (US)**

"Riedel's voice is reminiscent of Dame Joan Sutherland's voice at its best."

The Classical Music Guide (US)





PURE DIVA

Tribute to Joan Hammond

Cheryl Barker *soprano*

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Guillaume Tourniaire *conductor*

Timothy Young *piano*

MR301129 (SACD)

"A really very beautiful release. Barker has the vocal armoury of a particularly expressive artist..."

Forum Opéra (France)

"a beautiful recital...dramatic engagement at every turn, distilling passion or melancholy according to the arias..." **Parutions.com (France)**

"This fine tribute to Joan Hammond will further enhance Barker's reputation as a soprano of great versatility." **SA-CD.NET (UK)**

"full of emotion and exquisite pianissimo singing, Barker is at her best...the recording is first class...so much to...admire and savour."

MusicWeb International (UK)



RHAPSODIE: FANTASIE: POÈME

Music for Horn and Orchestra
Ben Jacks *horn*
Orchestra Victoria
The Queensland Orchestra
Barry Tuckwell *conductor*
MR301117 (SACD)

Damase: *Concerto pour cor et orchestre* (1995)
Koechlin: *Poème pour cor et orchestre, Op. 70bis* (1927)
Damase: *Rhapsodie pour cor et orchestre* (1987)
Dukas orch. Terracini: *Villanelle* (1906)
Saint-Saëns: *Morceau de Concert pour cor et orchestre, Op. 94*
Marshall-Hall: *Phantasy for horn and orchestra* (1905)

"This is a great moment for concerto music."
Opus Haute Définition (France)

"This is a tasty, original and generous collection of works for horn and orchestra. All credit to the Australian Government for having the percipience to fund it... Melba is an Australian label of fragrant distinction... The closest thing to hot cakes in years. Snap it up now."
MusicWeb International (UK)

"Ben Jacks performs everything to perfection."
Classical Lost and Found (US)



BARRY TUCKWELL





SMOKE ENCRYPTED WHISPERS

Samuel Wagan Watson *poetry*
Southern Cross Soloists
Ron Haddrick *narrator*
MR301140 (CD)

Poetry by leading indigenous poet Samuel Wagan Watson with interludes composed by:

Tom Adeney
Damian Barbeler
Will Barton
Betty Beath
Gerard Brophy
Lisa Cheney
Peter Clark
Stephen Cronin
Robert Davidson
Paul Dean
Louise Denson
John Gilfedder

Ralph Hultgren
Michael Knopf
Stephen Leek
Mary Mageau
Freeman McGrath
Richard Mills
Sean O'Boyle
Peter Rankine
Marianne Scholem
Stephen Stanfield
Toby Wren

"...listen to the music on this remarkable CD... a sonic tapestry of contemporary Brisbane, as torpid as a summer day, as threatening as a thundershower... Dean's seven-member group the Southern Cross Soloists plays with its customary precision and panache. Soprano Margaret Schindler negotiates some tricky territory in several of the settings. Rarely do we hear the entire ensemble together, which makes for variety and vigour in texture. Altogether, the performances are luminous, too elegant almost for the gritty underbelly that Watson's texts celebrate... the Brisbane of yesteryear, its imagery, sounds and characters linger lovingly in the memory."

Weekend Australian

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