

Helsinki Window

Works by Tiensuu, Haapanen et al

Finnish Baroque Orchestra

Fibo Records FiBO002



These contemporary works performed on Baroque instruments feature diverse stylistic

influences, electronic sounds and opposing harpsichord tunings, which combine to create a joyful cacophony. (FP) ★★★★★

Iberia Choral Works from Spain and Portugal

Les Elements/Joel Suhubiette

Mirare MIR344



An enjoyable tour of Spanish and Portuguese choral music over the centuries

includes two new, challenging but thrilling works. Just a few tweaks of ensemble, tuning and phrase attack needed. (OC) ★★★★★

Nordic Music

Works by Grieg, Berwald et al

Ana-Marija Markovina (piano) et al

Hänssler Classic HC17027

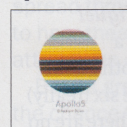


A well-balanced combination of piano concertos. Sweeping Nordic landscapes and folk inflections

are played with sensitivity. Only slight heavy-handedness in the Grieg mars it a little. (FP) ★★★★★

O Radiant Dawn Choral works by Byrd, Gibbons, MacMillan et al

Apollo5 VCM Records VCM123



One-to-a-part performances of repertoire spanning nine centuries, no less. An inspired

programme, superbly sung throughout. (JP) ★★★★★

Schubert-Ellington

Improvisations on Caravan etc

Karen Voure'h (soprano) et al

B Records LBM 019



A vibrant mash-up of classical and jazz, performed by musicians who seem to be having a ball.

Great fun, even if some moments outstay their welcome. (JP) ★★★★★

Reviewers: Michael Beek (MB),

Oliver Condy (OC), Rebecca Franks (RF),

Freyja Parr (FP), Jeremy Pound (JP)

The month in box-sets

Viennese whirl:
Bertrand de Billy led
the ORF from 2002-10



A Frenchman in Vienna and Fritz Brun

This month's round-up also includes two very fine releases from Naxos

Bertrand de Billy's tenure as music director of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra is celebrated in a new set from Oehms Classics (OC 032). The French conductor presided over the ensemble from 2002-10 and these recordings take in performances from across that period. Beethoven looms large with six symphonies and a couple of overtures, alongside single symphonies by Schubert, Mahler and Dvořák. Brahms's cantata *Rinaldo* joins Mahler's Eighth as the two choral items in the set, which is rounded out by a delightful disc of French Orchestral Music.

If you're yet to discover the music of Fritz Brun (1878-1959), you could do worse than dip into the 11-disc **Complete Orchestral Works** (Brilliant Classics 95784). Boasting some 12 years of recordings – most of which had not been recorded before – it presents the Swiss composer's ten symphonies and much more besides. The collection features performances by the Moscow and Bratislava Symphony Orchestras (under the singularly-monikered 'Adriano') and sees recordings of Brun's piano and cello concertos, plus myriad other works.



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Far more familiar fare is featured in **Grieg – Piano Music** (Naxos 8.501404), an exhaustive foray into the composer's keyboard writing and transcriptions. Performed by Einar Steen-Nøkleberg, the 14-disc set is comprised of recordings made in 1993 and '94, all housed in very smart packaging featuring beautiful artwork. There's a bounty of folk song-inspired works, including three discs of 152 *Norwegian Melodies*, plus three discs of *Lyric Pieces*, not to mention star

turns like the *Holberg* and *Peer Gynt* suites.

Sticking with Naxos, the label has just unveiled **The Early Music Collection** (Naxos 8.503297) a whopping 30-disc set that provides an essential starting point for anyone wishing to hone their understanding of the genre. The 30 discs, compiled from 23 years of releases, take the listener on a journey from Gregorian Chant through the music of Bingen, Dufay, Josquin, Tallis, Dowland and Lawes, among many, many others. The accompanying booklet itself offers concise and clear detail, as well as a really useful timeline of composers and parallel historic detail.