

BRIEF NOTES

Your quick listening guide to more new releases, including duos by *Ravel* and *Kodály*; Concertos by *Shostakovich*; and *JS Bach's St John Passion*

Abel

Music for flute and strings
Georgia Browne (flute); Nordic Affect
Brilliant Classics 94304 £5.99



Affectionate explorations of seldom performed pieces by mid-18th century composer and bass viol virtuoso Carl Friedrich Abel. An attractive programme. (NA) ★★★

Bach

St John Passion (1749 version)
Cantus Cölln/Konrad Junghänel
Accent ACC 24251 £29.99



Junghänel sympathetically directs Bach's latest version of his *St John Passion*. The Evangelist and other soloists are drawn from the eight-voice ensemble. (NA) ★★★★★

Brahms • Clara Schumann

Organ works
Anders Eidsten Dahl (organ)
LAWO Classics LWC 1023 £13.99



Eidsten Dahl's sympathetic interpretations exude warmth and serenity in the Chorale Preludes.

A Clara Schumann transcription is an imaginative bonus. (EL) ★★★

Brahms • Smetana

Trio in B; Trio in G minor
Weiss Kaplan Newman Trio
Bridge BRIDGE 9362 £12.99



A dull piano, the cellist's bleating vibrato and a lack of lyric impetus combine to make this Brahms

hard work. Smetana's trio is heavy-handed but heartfelt. (HW) ★★

Corp

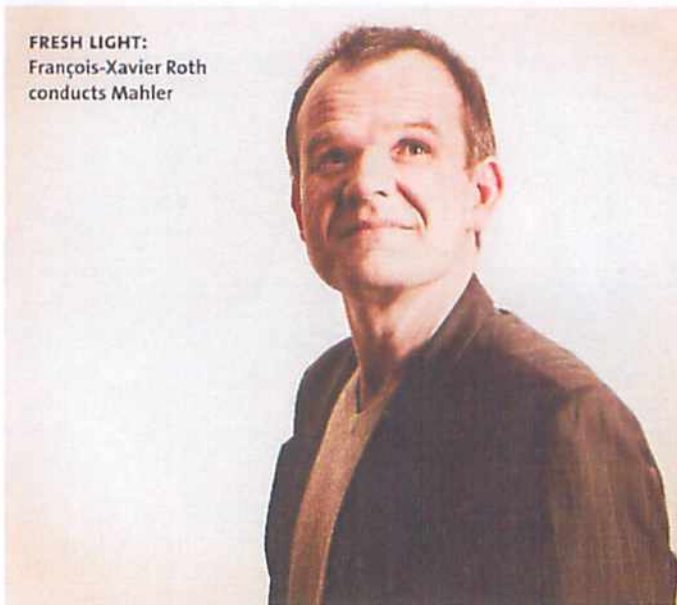
And all the Trumpets Sounded
The Shepherd's Calendar
Soloists; chorus; Bournemouth
Symphony/Ronald Corp
Dutton CDLX 7280 £12.99



Corp's war requiem is ambitious, eclectic, and just skirts the memorable. Hurd's cantata on John Clare

poems boasts a haunting slow movement and eloquent baritone. (Derick Williams. (GB) ★★★

FRESH LIGHT:
François-Xavier Roth
conducts Mahler



Félicien David
String Quartets Nos 1, 2 and 4
Cambini-Paris Quartet
Naive AM 206 £13.99



Félicien David is a fascinating 'outsider' figure in 19th-century French music. These intriguing, Schubertian

works receive exquisite performances here. Superb sound too. (HW) ★★★★★

Graupner

Cantatas
Freiburg Anton Webern Chorus;
Concerto Grosso Ensemble/Beuerle
Carus 83.457 £13.99



First recordings of cantatas by Darmstadt composer Graupner, a candidate for the Leipzig post

eventually awarded to Bach. Lively performances. (NA) ★★★★★

Victor Herbert

Works for cello and piano, etc
Grossman (cello), Hicks (piano)
New World 80721-2 £29.99



Mostly written for home use, Victor Herbert's pieces are melodious, sentimental, suavely

European with the odd Irish twang. Pleasant listening, but there's more juice in his operettas. (GB) ★★

Kodály • Schulhoff • Ravel
Sonata; Duos for violin and cello
Liza & Dmitry Ferschtman
Challenge Classics CCT2542 £13.99



Pungent performances of three fine duos by seasoned veterans: the Kodály is a little formal, but the Ravel

is visceral. The Schulhoff is at once haunting and raw. (HW) ★★★★★

Mahler • Webern

Symphony No. 1; Im Sommerwind
Baden-Baden & Freiburg SWR
Symphony/François-Xavier Roth
Hänssler CD 93.294 £13.99



Roth's fresh Mahler boasts beautifully transparent orchestral balance and avoids undue emotional

Paganini

String Quartets Nos. 1-3
Amati Ensemble String Quartet
Brilliant Classics 94287 £5.99



Some of Paganini's most innocuous music played with a legato, vibrato-laden, mid-20th-century style that fails to unearth any subtleties of colour and phrasing. (HW) ★★

Shostakovich

Piano Concertos Nos 1 & 2;
24 Preludes Op. 34
Korobeinikov (piano), Gaiduk
(trumpet); Lahti Symphony/Kamu
Mirare MIR 155 £13.99



Andrei Korobeinikov brings bags of personality to Concerto No. 1 and an unexpected gravitas to the start of No. 2. Fine orchestral playing and brilliantly incisive accounts of the Preludes. (EL) ★★★★★

Shostakovich

Violin Concertos Nos 1 & 2
Sayaka Shoji (violin); Ural Phil/Liss
Mirare MIR 166 £13.99



Shoji delivers technically flawless and insightful performances. Despite its authentically grainy Russian timbre, the Ural Philharmonic is sometimes flaccid. (EL) ★★★

Telemann

Cantatas
Soloists; Collegium vocale Siegen;
Hannover CO/Ulrich Stötzel
Hänssler CD 98.624 £13.99



This selection of Easter, Ascension and Whitsun cantatas by Telemann is vividly brought to life by Ulrich Stötzel and his well-drilled musicians. (NA) ★★

The Film Music of Arthur Benjamin and Leighton Lucas
Includes music from *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Ice Cold in Alex* etc
BBC National Orchestra of Wales/
Rumon Gamba
Chandos CHAN 10713 £12.99



Climbing Everest, catching a train at York: here's British film music for every occasion, with seven samples of Lucas (usually refined, sometimes limp) and a meatier trio by Benjamin. (GB) ★★★

The Finck Album

Works by Hermann Finck
Kelli Uustani, Pirjo Levandi
(sopranos), Mart Sander (baritone);
Bel Etage Theatre Orchestra
Divine Art DDDV 62402 £11.99



Spirited Estonian performers, charming British theatre music: a delightful mix. Selections from *Decameron Nights* show Hermann Finck at his best. (GB) ★★★

Reviewers: Nicholas Anderson (NA), Geoff Brown (GB), Erik Levi (EL), Helen Wallace (HW)