



C L A S S I C A L
M U S I C D A I L Y

A Fresh Vision — Issue 139, 1 August 2020

A fire at the Gothic Cathédrale Saint-Pierre-et-Saint-Paul de Nantes in France during the early hours of 18 July 2020 has destroyed the cathedral's Jacques Girardet organ, dating from 1621. It appears that the fire was started deliberately by a volunteer working at the church.

In a controversial break with tradition, Sheffield Cathedral in the UK has announced that it will be closing its Cathedral Choir in order to 'begin again with a fresh vision'. It seems that this is for varied and complex reasons, including a fall in attendance at choral evensong, reports of bullying in the choir and a wish to have more diversity, flexibility, experimentation and imagination in cathedral worship. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to have merely provided a convenient moment at which to do this. Information: sheffieldcathedral.org

Various appointments have been announced. Austrian conductor, pianist and composer Patrick Hahn becomes Generalmusikdirektor of the city of Wuppertal in Germany from 2021-22. Uzbekistani conductor Aziz Shokhakimov is to be music director of both Orchester Musikkollegium Winterthur in Switzerland and Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg in France from 2021-22. British-born David Fisk becomes president and chief executive officer of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra in North Carolina, USA, from 31 August 2020. Clare Burovac becomes general director of New Orleans Opera from 15 September 2020. Jeffrey Haydon is to be president and chief executive officer of the Ravinia Festival in Illinois, USA.

David N Tucker has been removed from the board of directors of the Richard Tucker Music Foundation because he posted racist comments on *Facebook*. The foundation, created in 1975, supports and advances the careers of American opera singers, and bears the name of American tenor Richard Tucker (1913-1975). The disgraced board member is one of the tenor's sons.

The Bamberger Symphoniker's Mahler Competition for conductors has been won by British conductor Finnegan Downie Dear. Second prize was awarded to Thomas Jung from Germany. Instead of awarding a single third prize, the jury decided to recognise the qualities of all the semi-finalists by dividing the third prize between Wilson Ng from Hong Kong, Harry Ogg from the UK and Katharina Wincor from Austria. Information: bamberger-symphoniker.de

Many organisations have announced cancellation or postponement of their forthcoming programmes until approximately January 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A few, mostly outdoor, performances have taken place in some countries under strict social distancing conditions.

Z2 Comics and Deutsche Grammophon have announced a new original graphic novel looking 250 years into the past at one of the most celebrated musicians of all time: Ludwig van Beethoven. It will be accompanied by a new compilation album from Deutsche Grammophon, mirroring the story through the composer's own works. *Beethoven: The Graphic Novel* will be released in bookshops and comic outlets in November 2020, and is available to order now directly from the Z2 Comics webstore: www.z2comics.com/beethoven

Soprano Larisa Martínez, violinist Joshua Bell and pianist Peter Dugan will perform *Voice and the Violin*, streamed globally through *Veeps*, live in front of an audience at the Gerald R Ford Amphitheater, Vail, Colorado, USA on 14 August 2020. The concert will include the first performance of Martínez and Bell's new work, *Voice and the Violin*. This will be the first time that Martínez and Bell have performed live since the COVID-19 lockdown. Further information: grfavail.com/event/vpac-presents-joshua-bell/

American conductor Harold Rosenbaum will hold a Choral Conducting Workshop via Zoom on 10 and 11 August 2020. The primary focus of the workshop will be on physical conducting technique, but there will also be discussions about the choral works to be used during the sessions. The workshop, which was originally going to be held at NYU in August 2020, is limited to twelve active participants, and the fee for active participants is US\$160. Observers are welcome at a reduced fee of US\$80. Information: haroldrosenbaum.com

Douglas Stevens' recording of the complete piano works of English composer Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989) on HOXA *HS180618* had limited exposure to press and media when first released in 2018 and is now being re-presented to reach a wider audience. Lennox Berkeley studied music with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, was a friend of Benjamin Britten and taught at the Royal Academy of Music for over twenty years. Douglas Stevens is organist at the Chapel of All Saints at Wardour Castle in Wiltshire, UK. Information: lennoxberkeley.org.uk

We mark the passing of Camil Marinescu, Bernard Ładysz, Paul Reale, Gabriele Buschmeier, Eleanor Sokoloff, Gabriella Tucci, Lorenzo Arruga, Ennio Morricone, Claude Mercier-Ythier, Nikolai Kapustin and Ida Haendel. [READ MORE ...](#)

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CD SPOTLIGHT — A WIDE EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM

Our CD reviews this month feature Patrick Maxwell's reviews of Alexandra Matvievskaia singing Fauré on Artalinna and Margarita Gritskova singing Prokofiev on Naxos.

Gerald Fenech writes about Korngold's *Violanta* on Dynamic, William Dawson's *Negro Folk Symphony* and music by Ulysses Kay, Eivind Groven, Franck and Myroslav Skoryk on Naxos, plus Pietari Inkinen's recording of Dvořák's Sixth Symphony on SWR Music.

Giuseppe Pennisi listens to music by Stravinsky for violin and piano on Etcetera.

Geoff Pearce's selection features symphonies by Krommer on cpo, Dohnányi piano concertos on Capriccio and piano music by the late Paul Reale on Naxos.

Stephen Francis Vasta explores Mariss Jansons' recording for BR Klassik of Bruckner's Symphony No 4, and Ona Jarmalavičiūtė listens to *Girl in Green* by Paul English on Big Round Records.

Our CD reviews are worth exploring in more detail than can be shown here. They are all illustrated with sound samples, usually chosen by the author of each review. If you enjoy listening to these, you can usually hear an extra sample on the 'CD information page' linked from the bottom of each review. An alternative way to reach these CD information pages is via our New Releases section, where you can also find information about recent CDs, including those which haven't yet been reviewed, and this also enables you to follow the review cycle process for any particular CD.

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ENSEMBLE — BRING BACK THE BLUE AND THE LIGHT

Maria Nockin: On Saturday, 18 July 2020, accompanied by pianist Helmut Deutsch, dark-voiced tenor Jonas Kaufmann sang an impressive group of opera's most popular, show-stopping arias from the ornate library of Bavaria's Polling Abbey. The grand Baroque interior of the historic venue, built in the 1770s with soaring vaulted ceilings and breathtaking frescoes, served as a perfect setting for the program which also included video highlights from his stage and HD performances. Streaming of this concert will be available for US\$20 through 29 July 2020.

The Polling Abbey Library was built from 1776 to 1778 by master builder Matthias Bader. The ceiling fresco was painted by Johann Baader, and the stucco work was done by Thassilo Zopf. Restored to its former beauty by funds from the local Rotary Club, since 1975 the hall has been in regular use for classical concerts.



A still frame from New York Metropolitan Opera's Jonas Kaufmann/Helmut Deutsch recital live from Polling Abbey Library on 18 July 2020

The genial Metropolitan Opera General Manager Peter Gelb opened the program along with perky dramatic soprano Christine Goerke who will host each of the concerts in the series.

Tenor Jonas Kaufmann and accompanist Helmut Deutsch began the musical offerings with a slow, dreamy rendition of the aria from Act I of Puccini's *Tosca*, 'Recondita Armonia', (Remembered harmony) which set the tone for these artists' lyrical approach to dramatic music. Kaufmann's Cavaradossi paints the blonde Attavanti as his Madonna while dreaming of dark-eyed Tosca. A short 'blip' interrupted the performance here, but that was the only problem during this concert. The second *Tosca* aria was the tragic 'E lucevan le stelle' (The stars were shining) in which Kaufmann as Cavaradossi sang of the beauty of the stars just before the sunrise that signals his death. Although the titles were helpful, the colors in the tenor's voice told the story of his character's inability to save himself. [READ MORE ...](#)

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Giuseppe Pennisi reports from Chigiana, on 'New Music' in Rome, on *Rigoletto* and the new *Quattro Stagione* ballet from Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, and on Antonio Pappano's Beethoven Ninth Symphony. Mike Wheeler writes about Lynne Marsh's film *Tragedy* showing *La traviata* from an unusual perspective, and about some of the online films replacing the Buxton Festival in the UK.

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Please note that many of the forthcoming events in our listings are likely to be cancelled because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

This newsletter is a monthly taster for our high quality and colourful online classical music magazine, published every day since January 1999. Founded by the late Basil Ramsey and current editor Keith Bramich.

The editorial and advertising copy deadlines for our September 2020 newsletter are both Wednesday 26 August 2020. [Contact us here](#).

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