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CD Review by Lynn René Bayley


Want List for Lynn René Bayley


[Critics' Choice: *Fanfare* Magazine Top 5 Recommended Recordings 2008]


I chose something early, something modern, something reissued on CD for the first time ever, and something *sui generis*. Among the gems not included in my quintet were Cecilia Bartoli's superb album "Maria," which was edged ever-so-slightly but decisively by Sharon Rostorf-Zamir's incredible Schumann recital (but I wrote a Hall of Fame article for Bartoli anyway); the great Naxos album of Buxtehude sonatas played by a quintet including violinist John Holloway and harpsichordist Lars Ulrik Mortensen; the new-old *Madame Butterfly* with Victoria de los Angeles and Rudolf Kempe at their zenith; Alessandro Stradella's brilliant oratorio *San Giovanni Battista*; and Nancy Van de Vate's equally extraordinary opera *Where the Cross Is Made*, the video of which is now available for viewing online at www.eoneill.com.

Here are my choices.


Vladimir Ashkenazy's recording of Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* is one of his major artistic accomplishments. I've heard half a dozen recordings of this work, from Schnabel to Bronfman, but this one was simply overwhelming. The album of compositions by Jonathan Little, entitled *Terpsichore*, was a most positive introduction for me to a major new, original, and quite brilliant classical voice. Sharon Rostorf-Zamir's disc of Schumann Lieder was only one of four vocal recitals that bowled me over this year, but this one had the greatest sense of personal involvement. I still can't get over it. Tafelmusik's combination of Bach, de Mondonville, and Vivaldi is splendid. This is how early music should be played and sung. Every single one of these performances had something significant or new to say about the music. The first reissue in over 40 years of Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten* was a major revelation. There are two other performances of this extraordinarily difficult opera out there, one each on CD and DVD, but this is the only one that works, and it opened my ears to a relatively neglected masterpiece.

1.  **BEETHOVEN** *33 Variations on a waltz by Diabelli. 12 Variations on a Russian Dance from Wranitzky's "Das Waldmädchen"* • Ashkenazy • DECCA 475 8401

2.  **LITTLE** *Missa Temporis perdit: Kyrie. Sacred Prelude. Fanfare, op. 3a. Terpsichore, "The Whirler or Muse of Dance." Duo Sonata on Elizabethan Themes. That Time of Year* • Simms/Tallis C Ch, Cardiff Perc Duo, Czech PO Str Soloists, Kiev PO members, Vox Moderne • DILUTE 07 002

3.  **SCHUMANN** *Liederkreis, op. 39. Frauenliebe und Leben. An den Mond. Mein Herz ist schwer. Die Tochter Jephtas. Aus den ostlichen Rosen. Schneeflöckchen. Der Himmel hat eine Träne geweint. Widmung* • Rostorf-Zamir, Zak • ROMÉO 7260

4.  **J. S. BACH** Cantata 191. **DE MONDONVILLE** Grand motet, "Domine regnavit." **VIVALDI** Gloria, RV 589 • Lamon/Monoyios, White, Ainsworth/Tafelmusik Baroque O & CCh • CBC 5244

5.  **ZIMMERMANN** *Die Soldaten* • Gielen/Gabry, Synek, de Ridder, Nicolai, Kelemen, Jenckel, Brokmeier/Gürzenich O Cologne • WERGO 6698 2 (2 CDs)

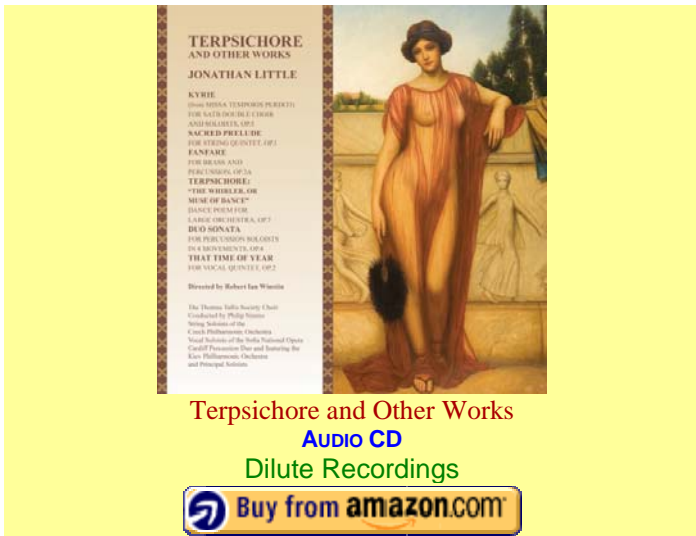
1.



Beethoven: Diabelli Variations
Audio CD
Decca

 Buy from amazon.com

2.



Terpsichore and Other Works
Audio CD
Dilute Recordings

 Buy from amazon.com

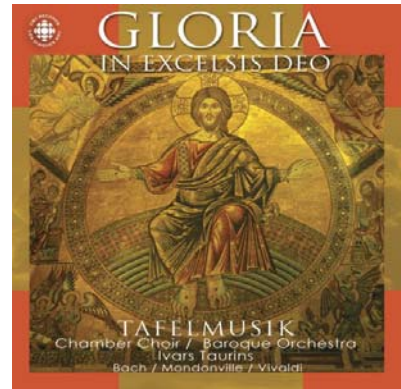
3.



Schumann: Lieder
Audio CD; IMPORT
Romeo Records

 Buy from amazon.com

4.



Gloria in Excelsis Deo
Audio CD
Cbc

 Buy from amazon.com

5.



Zimmermann: Die Soldaten
Audio CD; IMPORT
Wergo Germany

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