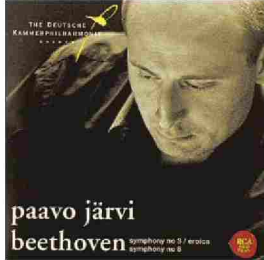


Salzedo's Harp

Yolanda Kondonassis
Telarc

Yolanda Kondonassis' newest recording for Telarc pays tribute to Carlos Salzedo (1885-1961), one of the pioneers of the harp and its music. His works are models of elegance and innovation, embracing old forms in new ways and stretching the instrument's personality well beyond its celestial stereotype. Kondonassis plays every piece with the requisite expressive weight, whether delicate or muscular. She allies charming, robust music with exquisite artistry. **Grade: A**

Beethoven:



Symphonies Nos. 3 and 8

Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie; Paavo Järvi
RCA Red Seal

And you thought you knew Beethoven's symphonies. Paavo Järvi will change your mind with his explosive view of these monuments. The Estonian music director of the Cincinnati Symphony and Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie guides his crackerjack German ensemble through accounts of the Third ("Eroica") and Eighth that sound entirely rethought. Historical performance practices meet modern instruments in these bracing, revelatory readings. **Grade: A**



Reich: "Music for 18 Musicians"

Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble
Innova

Steve Reich, the pioneering minimalist, wrote his "Music for 18 Musicians" from 1974 to 1976. He based the piece on 11 chords that undergo myriad harmonic and coloristic transformations. The effect is mesmerizing, an hour's worth of music that unfolds in gleaming washes of sound. Stick with it, and you'll be rewarded. Michigan's Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble plays the piece with effortless cohesion. **Grade: B+**



Bach: Six Sonatas & Partitas for Violin Solo

Lara St. John
Anacalgon

Lara St. John's second recording of the complete Bach partitas and sonatas — a decade after the first — must be deemed a stunning achievement. The Canadian violinist takes the music at its written word, while imbuing each piece with personal touches that cast new light on familiar ground. Her variegated and grandly stated approach to the mammoth Chaconne that ends the Partita No. 2 in D minor summarizes St. John's sensitive audacity. **Grade: A**

Printing imperfections present during scanning