

Rosebrook Classical

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

Great Albums - part 2

In continuation of highlighting albums that embody the goals we see for the classical music recording industry we admit we were a little vague on what that criteria was in our last post. So, we will remedy that today before we give you a few more albums that are worth a listen. Here are our developed criteria for what makes a great album in the 21st century.

1. New Music or rarely recorded music
2. Have the ability to have an immediate impact in sales - (a problem in classical music)
3. Have a musical impact
4. Performance quality must be stellar
5. Sound Quality must also be stellar
5. Programming should appeal to the non-classical world without sacrificing musical integrity
6. The consumer needs to be able to get excited about the performer(s).
7. The cover art needs to be modern looking enough to stand up next to a pop album and seem appealing. (We know it's materialistic, but it's important for competition)



Performer: Lara St. John (violin), Sarah Ioannides (conductor), Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Album: HINDSON - CORIGLIANO - LISZT/KENNEDY/ST. JOHN


Track Listing:

- Matthew Hindson (b. 1968) Violin Concerto
1. Wind Turbine at Kooragang Island
 2. Westerway
 3. Grand Final Day

John Corigliano (b. 1938)
Suite from The Red Violin

Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

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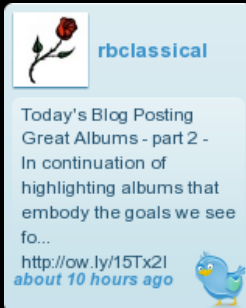
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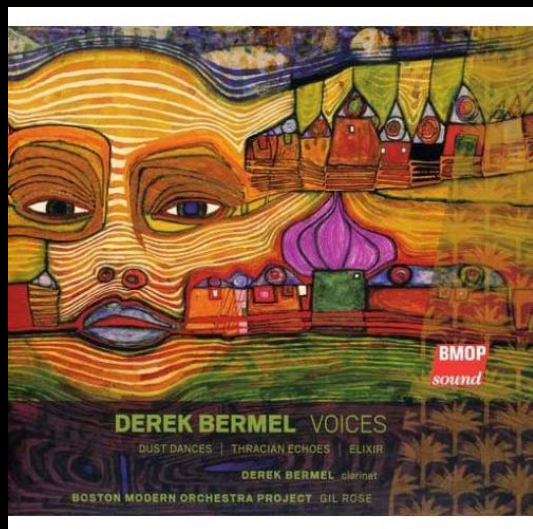
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arr. Kennedy/Lara St. John

Totentanz

This remarkable album is a little old as it was released in April of 2008. But it is still relevant. Not only does it have the world premiere of a great Violin Concerto by Matthew Hindson, it also contains a world premiere of a fantastic arrangement of Liszt's Totentanz for solo violin. We believe it is definitely an album that meets all of our criteria, especially number 7 (of course all of Lara St. John's albums meet that).



Performer: Derek Bermel (clarinet/composer), Gil Rose (conductor), Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Album: Voices

Track Listing:

Derek Bermel (b. 1967)

1. Dust Dances (1994)
2. Thracian Echoes (2002)
3. Elixir (2006)

Voices, for Solo Clarinet and Orchestra (1997)

4. I. Id
5. II. She Moved Thru the Fair
6. III. Jamm on Toast

Here is another album with a composer/performer - which is always a good combination. All of the pieces are extremely engaging, but we are especially in love with the jazzy movement "Jamm on Toast" within the Voices piece. This is the kind of album you can share with a non-classical friend that will get them bobbing their head and tapping their toe, and that is why we highly suggest it. And for sound quality, it is even released as an SACD!

POSTED BY ROSEBROOK CLASSICAL AT 10:41 AM

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