

What a contrast with the Bruch G minor that I heard from **Lara St John** at Cadogan Hall on 14 October. The Canadian violinist, making her London debut, had the individuality that Khachatryan lacked. Indeed, her portamento – valid stylistically – was positively Hubermanesque. She dominated the platform both physically and virtuosically, and put on a real performance, with tonal variety and colour – although occasionally the sound was a little wiry. She did pull Bruch's music about a bit and verged on the vulgar sometimes but it was clear that a major personality had arrived on the scene. The arrangement of Liszt's *Totentanz* that she has made with Martin Kennedy is an enjoyable addition to the repertoire – she has recorded it – and the live performance was very exciting, with some startling staccato. Josep Caballé-Domenech did his best to animate a scrappy Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.