



PRESS OVERVIEW 2020



Petr Nekoranec – French Arias
Czech Philharmonic, Christopher Franklin
SU4260-2
CD

"Mit Christopher Franklin wurde ein erfahrener Dirigent gewonnen, der die Tschechische Philharmonie zu adäquaten Begleitern werden lässt. Die Stuttgarter müssen sich beeilen, wenn sie diesen bemerkenswerten Tenor erleben wollen, dem bald die Welt der Oper offen stehen wird."

Opera Lounge, January 2020

"Already the winner of multiple prizes, as well as a member of Oper Stuttgart's ensemble, the 26-year-old Czech tenor Petr Nekoranec is clearly a name to watch – and was indeed our 'One to Watch' last month... What is immediately striking is Nekoranec's light, easy timbre, with an occasional hint of an appealing flutter. There's nothing effortful or forced, and he is able to move seamlessly across his range up to top notes that he seems able to control at will... This is an extremely impressive, seductive debut from a tenor who looks to be destined for great things."

Gramophone, April 2020

"Das Beste an Petr Nekoranecs Stimme sind die Klangfarben, ist das reiche Obertonspektrum seines Tenors. Besonders die obere Mittellage entfaltet einen edlen Glanz, auch im zartesten Piano. Damit kann der Sänger ein Fenster aufstoßen, das den Blick freigibt auf die Epoche des romantischen Gefühlsüberschwangs, der Schwärmerei und der Empfindsamkeit."

Der Tagesspiegel, April 2020

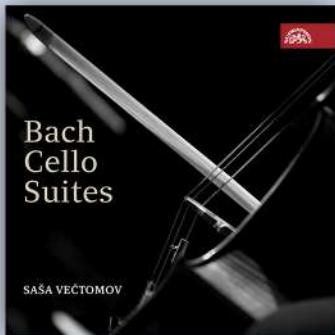
"I find it better to be optimistic and praise Nekoranec for what he has achieved here and now, which is a thoroughly enjoyable listen due to his winning voice and manner. A sizable part of the credit goes to conductor Christopher Franklin, who gets beautiful playing from the Czech Philharmonic and knows the music inside out. Warmly recommended."

Fanfare, June 2020

"This is very special. It introduces a Czech tenor, Petr Nekoranec, who has one of the most beautiful voices I've heard in a long time. It is perfectly even from top to bottom with an especially easy top register that he uses with great skill and musicality."

American Record Guide, August 2020

"Eine der aufregendsten Tenor-Entdeckungen der letzten Jahre in einem Repertoire, das teils noch in die Zukunft weist, teils jedoch spektakulär die immensen Qualitäten dieses seriösen und hart arbeitenden Künstlers abbildet. Wer einfach eine unglaublich schön timbrierte junge Stimme im ersten Frühling hören will, dem sei dieses Album wärmstens empfohlen."
Online Merker, September 2020



Saša Večtomov
Bach: Cello Suites
SU4275-2
2CD

"On each occasion that I've listened to this cycle, I feel that I've been taken on a spiritual journey. All in all, Večtomov manages to balance rhythmic buoyancy and flowing lyricism. Yet, there's penetrating depth in the slower more introspective pieces... I'm immensely grateful that this glorious recording has finally made it to CD after 35 years."

MusicWeb International, August 2020



Jitka Hosprová
Flosman, Feld & Bodorová: Czech Viola Concertos
Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra
Jan Kučera, Tomáš Brauner
SU4276-2
CD

"L'œuvre est magnifique de lyrisme, intense, mystérieuse, un des tous grands concertos pour alto des temps modernes encore marqué par l'esthétique avant-gardiste des années soixante, comme un fabuleux retour du futur vers le passé, Jitka Hosprová le chantant ample, profond, abrasant les cordes dans l'Allegro con spirito."

Artalinna, May 2020

"Czech violist Jitka Hosprová delivers totally committed, highly sensitive readings of these three rarities, making them significant additions to those recordings featuring her instrument."

Classical Lost and Found, August 2020

"Jitka Hosprová ist in allen Werken 'zuhause' und interpretiert phänomenal, das Orchester begleitet sie kongenial."

Fono Forum, January 2021

"What is immediately striking here is the rich baritone tone of Jitka Hosprova's viola, which she plays with consummate authority... If you have a chance to hear Jitka Hosprova in person, drop everything and go to hear this stunning musician with the catholicity to incorporate on one album two composers on opposites sides of the Czech communist divide."

American Record Guide, August 2020



Jana Semerádová, Erich Traxler
Händel, Leclair: Chaconne for the Princess
SU4277-2
CD

"The best works here, dedicated to the 18th-century Princess Anne, are those played at a pace; the flute is a delightful breath of fresh air."

BBC Music Magazine, September 2020

"Semerádová ist eine sensible Interpretin, die sehr gute Leistungen bringt. Erich Traxler spielt einige von Händels Cembalostücken energisch, übertreibt aber glücklicherweise ihre virtuosen Züge nicht... Alles in allem ist dies ein musikalisch unterhaltsames und aus historischer Sicht interessantes Programm."

Toccata, February 2021



Václav Talich
Smetana: Libuše (Live 1939)
Czech Philharmonic, Prague National Theatre Orchestra
SU4279-2
CD



Gramophone Editor's Choice

"The opera fragments are what make this CD unique, especially the intense portrayal of Libuše herself by the then-young soprano Marie Podvalová, bold, fearless singing, almost always dead in tune like a knife in the heart. Other singers involved include the bass Vilém Zítek, who we're told hated making records, but what a voice... There are 'historic' (ie old) recordings, and historic recordings (recordings of history being made). This release is most definitely in the latter category. Snap it up before the deletion axe beats you to it."

Gramophone, October 2020

"Libuše's final scene, in which the clairvoyant monarch predicts the historic triumphs of the Czech people and includes the famous line ,My dear Czech nation shall not perish, it shall triumph over all terrors' must have sounded, in 1939, like a bold declaration of national pride. The long and tempestuous applause, during which the audience spontaneously bursts into the Czech national anthem, provide this new release with a unique and touching energy."

Opera+, June 2020

"If Smetana embodied the heroic impulse in his people, so too did conductor Vaclav Talich (1883–1961), the sensationally gifted acolyte of Czech music well documented in the symphonic repertory of Smetana, Dvorak, and Suk... Immense and intensive labors from Milos Guth and Jan Lzicar have managed to reconstruct Act III in its fragmented form, still a brilliant testament to human will and artistic integrity that ends climactically with an inflamed audience – used to holding hands during the aria – moved to sing collectively the Czech National Anthem after their long, tumultuous applause."

Audiophile Audition, September 2020

"Si la distribution fait rêver (impressionnant Zitek, solide Vojta, superbe Krasova), on peine à discerner les intentions de Vaclav Talich tant l'orchestre paraît lointain. Mais la Libuse exaltée de Maria Podvalova excitera les collectionneurs."

Diapason, November 2020

"La scène finale où la monarque professe un avenir glorieux au peuple tchèque a une résonance évidemment toute particulière. La puissance d'émission et le timbre chaud de Marie Podvalová rendent charismatique et vibrante son incarnation du rôle-titre."

Classica, February 2021



Miroslav Sekera
Smetana & Liszt: Piano Works
SU4280-2
CD



Supersonic Award of Pizzicato

"It is above all the intimate sounds, the narrative playing and the constant reflection on what is played that make this pianist so extraordinary. In addition, nothing is artificial, the music develops almost by itself and seeks its own path. Miroslav Sekera always finds in each piece an individual approach and a very personal scale of colours. Above all, the music seems to flow out of him. That is great art."

Pizzicato, August 2020

"Eine echte Entdeckung ist die zu Smetanas Lebzeiten nie veröffentlichte 'Macbeth'-Fantasie mit extrem weitöumig und orchestral gedachter Dramatik, mit der Sekera mit seiner Smetana-Ehrung eine Lücke füllt."
Piano News, November 2020

"Sekera traduit bien le charme, la virtuosité et la chaleur des pages. Il souligne aussi ce que le Tchèque doit à Liszt en termes de psychologie, de passion ou de lyrisme. Ce CD est un témoignage convaincant des liens de longue durée entre les deux musiciens."
Crescendo, December 2020



Jan Bartoš

Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Jakub Hrůša
Novák: Piano Concerto, Toman and the Wood Nymph
SU4284-2

CD

Europadisc Album of the Week

"Bartoš's playing is ardent and committed, with sterling support from the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra under Hrůša and well-balanced sound... Hrůša's performance with the Prague Radio orchestra stands out from all others for its technical aplomb, full-throttle passion, expressive sensitivity and superb modern sound. Anyone with any sort of interest in Central European music at the turn of the century ought to hear this disc for the extra perspectives it affords on a fascinating figure of the period..."
Very warmly recommended!"

Europadisc, September 2020

The Guardian Classical Album of the Week

"[The Concerto] is crammed with hefty bravura solo writing that is dispatched on the recording by Jan Bartoš with suitable muscularity... but it's the work that ends the disc, the symphonic poem *Toman and the Wood Nymph*, that justifies Hrůša's enthusiasm... It's an effective piece, full of striking, pictorial invention, and Hrůša and the Prague Radio orchestra project it with every bit of the vividness it needs."

The Guardian, September 2020

"We get fantastic playing from pianist Jan Bartoš, treating the music with the seriousness it deserves and throwing in a delectable bonus in the shape of *At Dusk*... It's brilliantly performed, Hrůša letting rip when needed. I'd suggest waiting til the neighbours are out and turning the volume up: the closing bars are terrifying. A fascinating introduction to an unjustly neglected figure."

The Arts Desk, October 2020

"It's excellent to hear this youthful work [Piano Concerto] in a CD performance as well prepared and executed as this..."
MusicWeb International, October 2020

"Novak – pupil of Dvorak, friend and rival of his son-in-law Josef Suk – may not rank as highly as Hrusa's 'Czech five' (those two plus Smetana, Janacek and Martinu). But this music – the youthful piano concerto, a mature set of piano pieces and a tone poem akin to Dvorak's folk tale masterpieces – hovers between Dvorak, Liszt and the young Strauss and is worth knowing in Hrusa and Bartos's idiomatic performances."

The Sunday Times, November 2020

"Composed ten years later, Toman and the Wood Nymph is far more original and confident than the concerto... Hruša and the orchestra respond well to its turbulent passions in a captivating performance with superb recorded sound... the four movements of At Dusk for solo piano have greater character and in a performance as committed as that of Jan Bartoš show clear evidence of greatness to come."

BBC Music Magazine, Christmas issue 2020

"It goes without saying that the qualities of orchestra, conductor and soloist leave no wish unfulfilled."

Opus Klassiek, December 2020

"Both corner movements are characterized by driven, virtuoso dynamism, while the wonderfully beautiful, slow movement, the andante con sentimento, is a lyrical highlight of 19th century piano literature in general... Can not be missed! Hruša and the Prague Radio Orchestra play it with all the liveliness it needs, Bartoš's piano playing is fiery and dedicated and Hruša's performance with the Prague Radio Orchestra is in turn characterized by technical self-assurance, passion, expressive sensitivity and beautiful sound. The music is brilliantly performed by both, the soloist and the conductor, which makes this CD a fascinating introduction to a great, unjustly, neglected figure."

Stretto, December 2020

"Jan Bartoš and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra clearly believe in the music's quality and Jakub Hruša is a committed advocate of the composer, as his booklet note affirms. Supraphon's sound is splendid. Bartoš illustrates a more sensitive and intimate side to his playing in the brief suite At Dusk..."

International Piano, January 2021

"Nun ist dank der Interpreten und des Labels diese CD mit ihren exzellenten Neueinspielungen und brillanten Tonaufnahmen zur schönen Würdigung von Nováks 150. Geburtstag geworden. Und sie beeindruckt ungemein!"

Das Orchester, February 2021

"Composées dans la foulée, les quatre pièces du cycle Au crépuscule sont surtout prétexte, pour le pianiste, à démontrer la subtilité de son toucher... Poème symphonique Toman et la nymphe des bois apparaît comme le véritable joyau du programme... Hrusa préserve la lisibilité d'une partition aux intrications complexes, enflamme ses troupes et appuie là où ça fait mal pour mieux nous emporter dans le tourbillon des passions. Troublant."

"Auch seine Ersteinspielung des Klavierkonzerts von Vítězslav Novák mit dem Pianisten Jan Bartoš zeugt von solch überragender Klasse, wenngleich die Tondichtung Toman und die Waldnymphe, ein Hauptwerk des böhmischen Strauss-Zeitgenossen, in seiner mitreißenden Dramaturgie hier noch fesselnder ist."

Crescendo, April 2021



Smetana Quartet

Beethoven: The Complete String Quartets

SU4283-2

7CD

"Here we also have Beethoven's own quartet transcription of his Piano Sonata Op 14 No. 1, perceptively performed, as everything else in the set. If you find Quatuor Ébène just a little too immediate and full-on, then the Smetana's blend of poise and passion should prove ideal (though the Harp's Presto is a virtuoso tour de force)."

Gramophone, November 2020

"This is just glorious, fabulous, marvellous music making... These are as great as it gets in the Beethoven quartet's playing of amazing energy and rhythmic aptitude and gorgeous balance and flawless intonation and just great emotional intelligence and intensity... Just fantastic. You can enjoy every bar of every quartet."

ClassicsToday.com, July 2021



Smetana Trio

Beethoven: Piano Trios

SU4288-2

2CD



BBC Music Magazine Chamber Choice

"The truly striking thing is how seamlessly they work together. Jan Talich's violin tone can be velvety and almost viola-like, meaning he shares a genuine tonal middle ground with Jan Páleníček's cello; this in turn acts as a springboard for Čechová's tonal nuance. It all makes for an extensive colour palette, imaginatively applied but never overdone in these exuberant and hugely enjoyable performances."

BBC Music Magazine, Christmas 2020

"Le Trio Smetana a de Beethoven une lecture plutôt sérieuse et rigoureuse, mais toujours vivante et jamais austère. Selon l'expression consacrée, si cet enregistrement ne bouleverse pas une très abondante discographie, il vient incontestablement l'enrichir et a toute sa place aux côtés des grands classiques."

Crescendo, December 2020

"Après un superbe album Martinu, voici, réunis pour l'île déserte, les quatre plus beaux trios avec piano de Beethoven, servis par des interprètes tour à tour passionnés, sensuels et d'une infinie douceur. Un clavier agile et coloré allié à des cordes soyeuses, légères et généreuses éclaire de nuances frémissantes le juvénile Trio no 3 en ut mineur, dont les insolentes brusqueries, les anguleux contrastes sont admirablement débusqués."

Diapason, June 2021

"Adepte d'un classicisme dépouillé, l'ensemble tchèque associe la rugosité des cordes à un piano charpenté aux timbres délicats, générant d'expressives frictions harmoniques. Les mouvements de danses sont ainsi caractérisés avec un réalisme stupéfiant (le Scherzo du Trio «Archiduc», rustique à souhait), et le Largo assai ed espressivo du Trio «Les Esprits» en devient presque glaçant."

Classica, June 2021



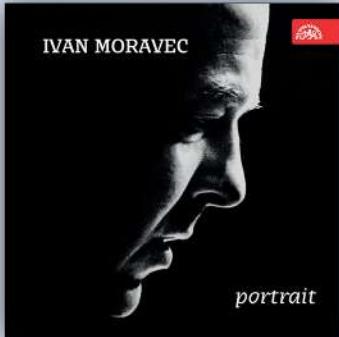
**Doležal Quartet, Michaela Hrabáňková
Mysliveček: Oboe Quintets, String Quartets
SU4289-2
CD**

"Michaela Hrabáňková plays with a lyrical delicacy that gives this music a certain refinement. Equally appealing are the three string quartets performed by the Doležal Quartet. The ensemble has natural chemistry to it. The quartet sound (as they should), like a conversation between four good friends. For anyone who enjoys the chamber music of Mozart and Haydn, give this disc a listen."

WTJU 91.1 FM University of Virginia, November 2020

"On doit aux interprètes de ce disque d'avoir redécouvert la partie de hautbois de trois des six quintettes de 1777, où l'anche de caractère de Michaele Hrabankova rend plus de pulpe que ses partenaires. Les archets des Dolezal assurent néan-moins une interprétation finement ciselée et fraîchement colorée. Leur dialogue anime ces oeuvres assez brèves de manière irréprochable."

Diapason, February 2021



Ivan Moravec – Portrait

SU4290-2

11CD+DVD



Diapason d'Or

"Moravec, le pianiste aux doigts de velours, le magicien des timbres, était également doté d'un jeu merveilleusement précis et affûté. Faut-il ajouter que ce coffret est indispensable à tout amateur de piano qui se respecte?"
Diapason, May 2021



Crescendo Joker Absolu

"Dans son jeu, il a constamment mis en évidence la parenté entre ces trois compositeurs (Chopin, Schumann, Debussy): il en traduit subtilement la poésie, par une extraordinaire transparence du toucher qui tient du miracle, et que si peu de virtuoses possèdent; il est l'interprète idéal de ces pages dans les sonorités si diversement nuancées, et plus encore dans la justesse de ses phrasés."

Crescendo, December 2020

"Ivan Moravec's subtle musicianship and cultivated virtuosity are known quantities to ClassicsToday.com readers... It's not surprising to see how Moravec achieves his magic with outward calm, concentration, and physical economy... It's a musical treasure chest."

ClassicsToday.com, November 2020

"A truly fabulous set, then, one that will edify, stimulate and satisfy."

Gramophone, January 2021

"Chopin's music becomes the greatest art under Moravec's fingers. Leos Janacek's idiosyncratic works are presented here in absolute reference recordings, as are César Franck's Prélude, choral et fugue and Debussy's Images, Estampes, Children's Corner or Préludes, works that it is hard to play better, more beautifully or more clearly... For the Beethoven, Debussy and Chopin recordings alone, this Moravec box, produced in excellent sound quality, belongs on every CD shelf."

Pizzicato, January 2021

"The subtlety of his pedalling was the perfect complement to the richness and beauty of his tone. And his own description of his objectives in performance speaks volumes: 'The ideal mental or inner position of a player is to play as somebody else would play for you.' In other words, with a compulsion to communicate. This 11-CD set reveals his brilliance with the composers whose music most requires this approach: Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Franck, and Ravel."

*The Independent*****, January 2021*

"Moravec's Chopin at last realizes all expectations. His playing is majestic and exultant and wholly satisfying; playing unequalled that I know of... Moravec, as may have been expected, is a master of Schumann and Brahms... A first-class package not to be overlooked."
The Whole Note, February 2021



Karel Burian
Complete Recordings 1906–1913
SU4287-2
3CD

Crescendo Joker Patrimoine

"Supraphon a admirablement restauré au bon diapason tous ces fragiles et précieux incunables sonores avec amour et compétence, afin d'honorer de manière éclatante le 150e anniversaire du ténor tchèque. En outre, la plaquette contient une analyse très fouillée de la carrière de Karel Burian par Jan Králík, ainsi qu'une liste chronologique détaillée des enregistrements, ce qui rend cette édition très soignée exhaustive et définitive."

Crescendo, January 2021

"Der Ausflug in die Vergangenheit mit Karel Burian beginnt mit großen akustischen Herausforderungen. Geduldige Hörer lernen eine der eindrucksvollsten Tenorstimmen der Vergangenheit kennen, der auch in seinen Aufnahmen phänomenale, mitreißende Interpretationen geschaffen hat. Eine wichtige Neuausgabe, die Sammlung aller Gesangsliebhaber bereichert."

IOCO, December 2020

"Son incarnation de Dalibor de Smetana, pour lequel il n'avait pas de rival, est exceptionnelle en revanche, tout comme Max du Freischütz, Lenski, les deux airs de Werther, La Bohème et Paillasson. Le timbre y gagne en charme et la vaillance est extraordinaire... Il passionnera certainement collectionneurs et amateurs de ce répertoire marginal."

Classica, March 2021

"L'histoire de cette édition est un serpent de mer, Supraphon avait dès le microsillon envisagé de publier l'intégrale des enregistrements de Karel Burian, projet maintes fois ajourné, les 78 tours étant rares, et plus encore difficile à se procurer en bon état de lecture. Mais voici enfin l'œuvre achevée, les transferts sont parfaits, l'édition soignée, le livret documenté, j'applaudis et je me remets une fois encore ,Wohin nun Tristan scheidet'."

Artalinna, April 2021



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