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Autumn 2008



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ABERGAVENTNY MUSIC

Welcome to our **Autumn 2008** newsletter, drawing on the continuing wealth of outstanding recent recordings. Some of the major record companies may be in a state of panic, but what an opportunity for the many excellent independent labels!

As ever, please ring us or email us, and let us help you. We believe our search facilities are second to none, and we still reckon (mostly) to enjoy the pursuit of difficult queries.

Please make use of our ordering skills - we will always do our best to source for you any recording, any film, any book.

We spend our days researching and sourcing all sorts of CDs, DVDs and books, many of which are long out-of-print and therefore rare. Feel free to bring us any enquiries - we often succeed where others have failed!

We can order any title currently available on CD or DVD.

We hope you will visit us, to browse our stock, and to share a cup of coffee if there is time. Otherwise, we welcome orders by telephone, post or email.

We aim to mail out same day by first class post if we hold the item in stock - out of stock titles usually take 2-3 days to arrive to us.

Please contact us here in Abergavenny if we can help you in any way.

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All prices may be subject to change



Renée Fleming: Strauss Four Last Songs

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Renée Fleming finds new colour and character in her second recording of these luscious songs, accompanied by Christian Thielemann. This is surely the outstanding Strauss soprano of our generation, caught at her peak: "that full-cream voice, on top form, at home with the composer she loves most of all." (*Times*)

Decca 478 0647 **SPECIAL PRICE (WHILE STOCKS LAST) £12.99**



Beethoven Piano Concertos

Evgeny Kissin with Colin Davis & LSO. "He's thinking afresh about what he plays, and the effect is poetic, not cerebral. If you're usually a Kissin nonbeliever, do try this set and see. Others will need no recommendation." (*The Times*)

EMI 2063112 3CDs **SPECIAL PRICE £19.99**



Bryn Terfel: First Love as heard at the last night of this year's Proms, a collection of British folk-songs, arranged and orchestrated for the Welsh baritone. "All your old favourites (go on, admit it) are here, sung with such measured mastery that, yes, we forgive Bryn for succumbing to commercial pressures in putting this collection together" (*Guardian*) 4777865 £12.99



Susan Chilcott at La Monnaie

Scenes from Turn of the Screw, Otello, Ariadne & Peter Grimes, taken from live broadcast recordings, spanning five years (1994-99) of this extraordinary soprano's short career.

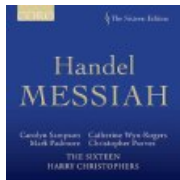
CYP8601 £14.99



Alison Balsom: Haydn & Hummel Trumpet Concertos

A fourth disc from this exuberant young trumpeter: "Alison Balsom is a virtuoso player and a natural, gifted communicator, and what really comes across is her sheer exuberance and joy in making music." (*Classic FM*)

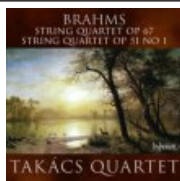
2162130 £10.99



Handel's Messiah

The Sixteen under Harry Christophers. A new recording from this most experienced of Messiah choirs, a fresh, sparkling performance with a magnificent sound quality. Three CDs for the price of one at our special price.

COR16062 ~~£19.99~~ £16.99 (*while stocks last*)



Takacs Quartet: Two Brahms Quartets

Glorious new recording from the Takacs. "Admirable performances... warm and articulate." (*BBC Music*) "Playing of radiant warmth and sensitivity. Strongly recommended" (*International Record Review*)

CDA67552 £12.99

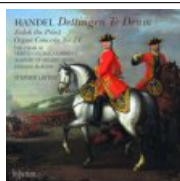


Fiesta: Gustavo Dudamel and The Venezuelan Youth Orchestra

With the infectious music that we remember with such excitement from what must have been the most joyful Proms performance ever.... "Dudamel's charisma beats through every bar of this scintillating survey of Latin American music..... I defy anyone to listen without excitement" (*The Gramophone*)

477 7457 £14.99

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Handel's Dettingen Te Deum + Zadok the Priest: "In a performance as precise and exuberant as this (wonderfully expressive diction from the Trinity Choir), its trumpet-and-drum-fuelled extroversion comes across as elementally exciting" (*Daily Telegraph*) "Prepare the sand buckets: the opening of Handel's Dettingen Te Deum is incendiary." (*The Times*)

CDA67678 £12.99



Bassoon Concertos: Karen Geoghegan

Enchanting disc from the young BBC Classical Star finalist. Repertoire includes Hummel's bassoon concerto, Elgar Romance and a most effective arrangement of Gershwin's Summertime!

CHAN10477 £14.99



Jonas Kaufmann: Romantic Arias

His gloriously dark, baritone voice is causing much excitement: "...arguably the finest tenor Germany has produced in the past half-century." (*Guardian*)

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Haydn's Creation

Philip McCreesh & his Gabrieli Consort. Magnificent new recording in Haydn's original English. "For a Creation in English, this new version - exhilarating, poetic and marvellously sung - becomes the prime recommendation." (*Gramophone*)

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Chopin Piano Recital: Ingrid Fliter

(includes the Grande Valse Brilliante, 4th Ballade and a feather-light Minute Waltz). An exceptional Chopin disc from this young Argentinian pianist: "one of the most instinctive and eloquent Chopin interpreters playing today" (*Daily Telegraph*)

5148992 £14.99



Handel's Water Music & Fireworks

Massive recreation of the original performances. "Under Niquet's high-adrenalin direction the instruments bray, rasp and swagger to gloriously raucous effect. You will not hear a more elementally exciting Fireworks than this." (*The Daily Telegraph*)

921606 £14.99



Buena Vista Social Club at Carnegie Hall

Live recording of their one-off, sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall in 1997, in front of an ecstatic audience. "This startlingly good, beautifully recorded one-off provides a covetable reminder of a peerless musical phenomenon at its glorious peak" (*BBC online*)

WCD080 2CDs £14.99

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Humph: the best of Humphrey Lyttleton

A 3 CD, 60 track collection of all his favourites. Tracks include Bad Penny Blues, Ace in the Hole, Coffee Grinder and many more.

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Charming Weill

Dance band collection of Kurt Weill tunes, expertly arranged and presented by HK Gruber with Max Raabe and the Palast Orchestra. An enchanting, sure-footed disc. Strongly recommended.

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Saints' Paradise: When the Saints go marching in

Trombone Shout Bands from the United House of Prayer for All People. Vibrant, uplifting 1990s chapel recordings of this rare, intense, exuberant black American brass music. "It's actually music given to us through the spirit of God, through the brass, and the people can feel the radiation of the horns..It's like fire shut up in the bones!" (*Edward Badd*) Strongly recommended

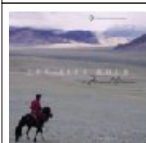
SFVCD40117 £14.99



Son de la Frontera:

Vibrant recording of this extraordinary flamenco group, as heard at the BBC Proms this year. "The best new group I've heard this year, in any genre." (*Mojo Magazine*) "Arab music appears in Arabesco, a zambra ... moorish, mellow, cajoling. Teasing tangos, Cuban style. Olé to fusions!" (*Flamenco World*)

NM15856CD £14.99



The Silk Road: A Musical Caravan.

A double CD panoramic survey of traditional music from Afghanistan, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other Central Eurasian nations. Most of the tracks were recorded on location & have not been available commercially. Ravishing sounds - strongly recommended.

SFW40438 £18.99



Gwilym Simcock: Perception

Solo (& trio) album from this remarkable young jazz pianist. Echoes of EST, Brad Mehldau and world music, but all moulded by his own restless creativity and virtuosity. "If this is just the beginning, the coming years defy imagining." (*Guardian*)

SRCD242 £14.99



George Melly: Goodtime George.

A happy compilation covering the earlier years of his career; a series of particularly uplifting tracks, including "Ma Reiney's Black Bottom" & "I'm a Ding Dong Daddy".

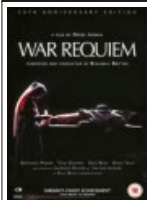
5444652 £6.99



Mud, Glorious Mud: The best of Flanders & Swann

All the old favourites, including the London Omnibus, the Gnu and the eponymous hippopotamus!

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Derek Jarman's War Requiem - a visionary film treatment of Britten's War Requiem, introduced by the poetry of Wilfrid Owen, read by Laurence Olivier in his last film role.

Order

"Images of terrible beauty, and playing of unflinching beauty from Tilda Swinton" (*Nigella Lawson, Sunday Times*) "Jarman's finest achievement" (*Observer*)

2NDVD3148 DVD £19.99



Rameau: Les Paladins - an extraordinarily inventive production of Rameau's controversial 1760 opera entertainment.

"Rameau goes digital. And it works! A delirious confection of music, movement and technology... Les Paladins blends high-tech wizardry with breathtaking precision." (*Independent on Sunday*)

OA0938D DVD £29.99



Marriage of Figaro, Covent Garden 2007
(Miah Persson & Erwin Schrott)

'This sexy, raunchy, romp of an opera is a triumph. Director David McVicar has searched for the essence of the composer and found it; fun filled, sensitive, romantic and serious by turns, all reflected in this production. This is a 'Must See' opera! ...You'll regret it if you don't!' (*Musical Opinion*)

BOA 0990 2DVDs £29.99



Hansel & Gretel. WNO production filmed from the MET

Richard Jones and John MacFarlane have recreated their wonderful WNO production into the larger spaces of the Met in New York. A deeply thoughtful and touching production, magnificently cast and conducted.

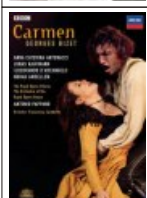
2063089 DVD £14.99



Donizetti: Fille du Regiment with Natalie Dessay, Covent Garden

"Natalie Dessay and Juan Diego Flórez zing their way through Laurent Pelly's romping production of Donizetti's military farce at Covent garden. It all makes you want to be in the stalls, seeing and breathing every moment." (*Times*)

5190022 DVD £16.99



Carmen, Covent Garden 2008
Jonas Kaufmann & Anna Caterina Antonacci

"The production has a star in Jonas Kaufmann's José, a dangerous, lived-in interpretation of the part, sung and acted with a rare ability... Antonacci's Carmen is stylish and genuinely sexy.." (*Gramophone*)

074 3312 6 DVD £19.99


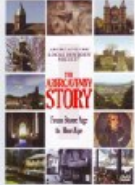




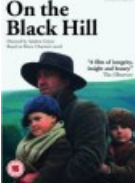


La Boheme, Metropolitan Opera 2008

That famous, sparkling Zeffirelli production, caught with Angela Gheorghiu and Ramon Vargas as the young lovers. Renée Fleming hosts and talks us through the big scenery changes. A chance to glimpse backstage during a live MET performance!

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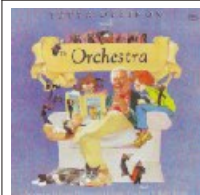


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	<p>Otello: Domingo & Kiri te Kanawa</p> <p>'Pure gold from the top team... Here was an evening to cherish, one to go straight into the memory in firmest indelible ink... The combination of Domingo and Solti promised gold and delivered every ounce expected.' (<i>The Times</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OAR 3102D DVD £19.99</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Glyndebourne's Cosi fan Tutte</p> <p>Nick Hytner's acclaimed 2006 Glyndebourne production.</p> <p>'I had to search long and hard down memory lane to recall a Cosi that so vividly revealed both the pleasure and the overwhelming pain of this evermore disturbing masterpiece, and I failed.' (<i>Opera Magazine</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OA0970D 2 DVDs £29.99</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>La Belle Hélène</p> <p>Dame Felicity Lott having the time of her life with a succession of beautiful young men in a stylish and invigorating Chatelet production, filmed in 2000. An ideal (and hugely Gallic) performance of the wittiest of french operettas. Enormously enjoyable - and a great favourite with us and with customers when we play it in the shop!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DVOPLBH £24.99</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>The infamous Anna Russell, live in concert</p> <p>A DVD of one of her farewell concerts from the Baltimore Museum of Art in 1984. Includes her legendary retelling of Wagner's Ring (!)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">VAIDVD4208 £24.99</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>On the Black Hill</p> <p>Exceptionally beautiful, evocative film of Bruce Chatwin's novel, set and filmed in the Welsh border hills.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">FF4 DVD £14.99</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We carry a wide stock of Opera, Ballet and Concert DVD titles. Please ask us for further information.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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CARILLON £14.99



Bryn Terfel: We'll keep a Welcome.

Enormously popular, rousing and evocative collection from Terfel with the Risca Male Choir and the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera. Tracks include 2 versions of the Welsh National Anthem, Men of Harlech, Sosban Fach and Myfanwy.

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