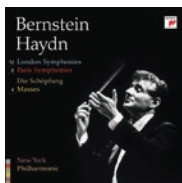




LEONARD BERNSTEIN AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC



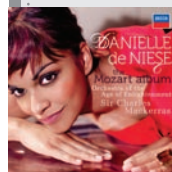
Haydn

SONY CLASSICAL

THIS 12-DISC BOX set celebrates the lives of two of classical masters who lived somewhat parallel lives, though centuries apart. Franz Joseph Haydn is arguably the second most influential composer of all time, after Bach, if not for his own work, then for taking on Beethoven as a student and for being close friends with Mozart. He wrote music and performed for aristocracy throughout Europe, from the Esterházy family of Hungary to the King of England, making his repertoire some of the most sought-after work of his time. This collection serves as a fitting memorial for the 200th anniversary of the composer's death. Included here are his six Paris symphonies, his 12 London symphonies (including the "Surprise" symphony), four masses and other choral works including "Die Schöpfung," "Harmoniemesse" and "Theresienmesse."

This collection's other master, conductor Leonard Bernstein, who is one of the 20th century's greatest traditionalists, serves as midwife for each of these performances, spreading his lavish filigrees and trademark dynamics throughout. What makes this box set essential is that, unlike Deutsche Grammophon's Haydn-Bernstein collection from a few years ago—which consisted mostly of '80s concert recordings—Sony Classical has collected Bernstein's most lively performances from the '60s and '70s in one place. Here he conducts some of the finest musical ensembles of his time, including the New York Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Westminster Choir. The only areas in which this collection could be better would be if the recordings were remastered, and if it included detailed liner notes. Nonetheless, it's a perfect one-stop document, capturing two important musical luminaries in their prime.

Classical highlights



Danielle de Niese *The Mozart Album*

Australian-born soprano Danielle de Niese will be starring as Susanna in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* at New York's Metropolitan Opera at select dates through December. It's fitting, then, that she'd pay tribute to the Austrian composer with this selection of arias from *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan Tutti* and, of course, *Figaro*, among others. **DECCA**



Tonhalle Orchestra *Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 6*

Mahler's sixth has been nicknamed "The Tragic Symphony" due to its powerful minor chords and moody Andante movement. Zurich's Tonhalle Orchestra, under the direction of conductor David Zinman, delivers an impassioned performance that seems to wring those tragic tones from the Austrian composer's score. Expert recording and production add to the musical melee. **RCA RED SEAL**



Howard Goodall *Eternal Light: A Requiem*

English composer Howard Goodall is best known in his home country for writing the themes and incidental music to BBC comedies like *Blackadder*, *Red Dwarf* and *The Vicar of Dibley* (the latter's theme, "Psalm 23," is included here). The highlight, however, is the title piece, the 10-part *Eternal Light* requiem, performed by the Christ Church Cathedral Choir. **EMI CLASSICS**



James Galway *Celebrating 70: A Collection of Personal Favorites*

Acclaimed Irish flautist Sir James Galway turns 70 this December, and to celebrate he's assembled this newly recorded compilation of some of his favorite pieces by Bach, Mozart and Rachmaninoff, as well as pop hits like "Danny Boy" and *The Pink Panther* theme. Not to be missed is his lightning-fast rendition of Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Flight of the Bumblebee." **RCA RED SEAL**