

his upper lip as he speaks of the broken ring entwined around the lovers' names.

The incisive edge on Rose's ample tone is splendidly heard in the desperate, fist-shaking bravado of 'Mut' and 'Der stürmische Morgen'. Elsewhere, too, Rose's wanderer seems to mock the absurdity of his own predicament, as at the final 'Wein' ('weep') of 'Letzte Hoffnung', where other singers, including Fischer-Dieskau, in his various recordings, and Matthias Goerne, with Graham Johnson (Hyperion, 1/98) and Alfred Brendel (Decca, 9/04), find a lamenting quality of tone. At the close of 'Das Wirtshaus', where the exhausted wanderer fails to find the consolation of death, he strikes a note of almost heroic defiance. Even the final 'Der Leiermann' is forthright rather than haunted, ending with a vehement challenge to himself and the hurdy-gurdy man. Like Hans Hotter, Rose leaves one with a sense of a vast burden of suffering determinedly endured against appalling odds, of Lear's 'Men must endure their going hence, even as their coming hither. Ripeness is all.'

If both singer and pianist tend to underplay Schubert's frequent accents (say, in the frantic, stumbling 'Rückblick'), Gary Matthewman counters the dangers of downward transposition by ensuring that Schubert's transparent, precisely imagined textures remain clear. Bass-lines are always firmly, eloquently etched, crucial when Schubert often thinks in terms of a dialogue between voice and keyboard bass, as in 'Erstarrung' and the contrapuntally conceived 'Der Wegweiser'. While there are more moving *Winterreise* recordings, not least from Goerne and Fischer-Dieskau, Rose's deeply felt, impressively sung performance seems to catch, more than most, something of the poet Müller's mordant, mocking irony which Schubert chose to soften and deflect when he set the verses. 🎧



Pre-session preparation: 'heroic' bass Matthew Rose

April Gramophone Choices



BRAHMS. C SCHUMANN
Violin Works

Lisa Batiashvili *vn* Alice Sara Ott *pf* Staatskapelle Dresden / Christian Thielemann
DG 479 0086GH
'Even before Batiashvili makes her entrance, we can sense this will be an outstanding performance.'



'ENGLISH VIOLIN DUOS'
Violin Works

Retorica
NMC Artists Series NMCD182
'Harriet Mackenzie and Philippa Mo project the music's often intricate contrapuntal interweaving with faultless technique and unfailing insight.'



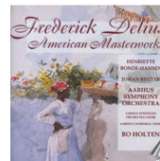
PÄRT
Te Deum

Gordan Nikolitch *vn*
Netherlands Chamber Choir and Orchestra / Risto Joost
Globe GLO5252
'One of Pärt's most remarkable achievements and the Dutch performers have risen to the occasion.'



VIVALDI
Bassoon Concertos, Vol 3

Sergio Azzolini *bn*
L'Aura Soave Cremona
Naïve OP30539
'There is the usual crop of achingly beautiful slow movements, some conjuring a summer night on the Grand Canal, others early-morning mist creeping across the lagoon.'



DELIUS
'American Masterworks'

Soloists; Aarhus Cathedral Choir; Aarhus Symphony Choir and Orchestra / Bo Holten
Danacord DACOCD732
'Johan Reuter is the excellent soloist in *Sea Drift*, sustaining the narration well, telling of the solitary sea bird that has lost its mate.'



'IN THIS MOONLIGHT NIGHT'

Lieder by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Taneyev
Dmitri Hvorostovsky *bar*
Ivari Ilja *pf*
Ondine ODE1216-2
'He brings to his interpretations a new richness and darkness of timbre, beautifully polished as it always was.'



MENDELSSOHN

String Quartets
Ebène Quartet
Virgin Classics 464546-2
'This disc abounds in the kind of lively engagement with the music that we've come to expect from Quatuor Ebène, caught up-close and personal by the microphone.'



PARRY

'From a City Window'
Ailish Tynan *sop* Susan Bickley *mez* William Dazeley *bar* Iain Burnside *pf*
Delphian DCD34117
'Full of subtle vocal nuance, excellent diction and discerning accompaniment, the performances are exquisite.'



BRITTEN

The Rape of Lucretia
Soloists; Aldeburgh Festival Ensemble / Oliver Knussen
Virgin Classics G02672-2
'Ian Bostridge is on top form, engagingly conversational and managing to invest Ronald Duncan's contorted libretto with poetic feeling.'