

Awards issue *Gramophone* Choices

harmonies and arched phrases (with the cellos' achingly beautiful arpeggios) is the real gem of this disc.

It leads dramatically into the original version of the 'Libera me' from the *Messa per Rossini* of 1869 – which was later expanded and transposed for the familiar *Messa da Requiem* in memory of Manzoni. The *allegro risoluto* fugue bounces along with a tremendous verve, having been introduced by one of those brilliant flashes of Verdian humour – the bassoon quartet chords. The brass-writing can easily become bombastic but not so here; Pappano's players provide a firmness of tone in a perfectly balanced sound stage. Clarity of scoring is the keyword here.

Pappano's speeds are consistently brisker than Gianandrea Noseda's interpretations from Turin for Chandos. He is also more noticeably vocal, very much in the Barbirollian manner, with some occasional sympathetic groans and hums picked up by the microphones. However, his chorus is the more highly expressive instrument and – despite its large size – capable of punctiliously fine detail in its collective singing. At full pelt it is equally matched to the *tutti* of the orchestra, whose playing is always accomplished, with especially crisp brass.

Pappano is such a compelling advocate for Verdi's music that there could be no finer 200th-birthday salute than this stunning disc. Do try to find room for it on your shelves. **G**

Quattro Pezzi sacri, Libera me – selected comparison:
Noseda (5/11) (CHAN) CHAN10659



Antonio Pappano at the Auditorium Parco della Musica

PHOTOGRAPHY: WARNER CLASSICS, PICTORIAL PRESS LTD

gramophone.co.uk



JS BACH
Brandenburg Concertos
Dunedin Consort / John Butt
Linn CKD430
'Expertly stylish recordings of the *Brandenburg Concertos* are two-a-penny but the Dunedin Consort offer more substantial style and bona fide expertise than most.'



SCHUMANN
Symphony No. 2. Manfred & Genoveva Overtures
Orchestra Mozart / Claudio Abbado
DG 479 1061GH
'Abbado's ear for detail and the individual colouristic effects of instrumental tonal qualities make the score glow with subtle light and shade.'



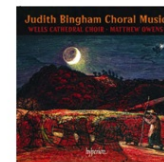
JS BACH
'Organ Works, Vol 2'
Robert Quinney *org*
Coro COR1612
'Robert Quinney's Bach recital of probing vitality and resourcefulness gets to the heart of the music with refreshing clarity and a communication born of genuine understanding.'



BARTÓK
Violin Concertos
Isabelle Faust *vi*
Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra / Daniel Harding
Harmonia Mundi HMC90 2146
'Sensitivity, subtlety and energy are among Faust's priorities and she enjoys superlative orchestral support and first-rate engineering.'



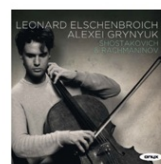
R STRAUSS
Ein Heldenleben.
Tod und Verklärung
SWR Symphony Orchestra,
Baden-Baden and Freiburg / François-Xavier Roth
Hänssler Classic
CD93 299
'Strauss's genius as a master orchestrator is presented with understated effectiveness.'



BINGHAM
'Choral Music'
Wells Cathedral Choir / Matthew Owens
Hyperion CDA67909
'There's a frankness to the sound that suits music that has nothing precious or twee about it...this collection is the most representative yet of Bingham's liturgical works.'



HINDEMITH
'Complete Viola Works, Vol 1: Viola & Orchestra'
Tabea Zimmermann *va*
Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin / Hans Graf
Myrios MYR010
'Zimmermann plays wholly convincingly. Hindemithians will not hesitate; neither should you.'



RACHMANINOV. SHOSTAKOVICH
Cello Sonatas
Leonard Elschenbroich *vc*
Alexei Grynyuk *pf*
Onyx ONYX4116
'Rarely have I heard the Rachmaninov with such a sensation that its dramatic trajectory has been charted with such consummate perception.'



SCHUBERT
Winterreise
Christoph Prégardien *ten*
Michael Gees *pf*
Challenge Classics CC72596
'Crucially, Prégardien "lives" the cycle as vividly as ever...like all the finest singers of *Winterreise*, he makes the wanderer's snowbound journey a cathartic experience.'

GRAMOPHONE RECORDINGS OF THE YEAR 2013 29