

**WINNERS OF THE FIRST EVER BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE AWARDS
 ANNOUNCED**

Winners of the first ever BBC Music Magazine Awards for classical recording excellence were today [15 March] announced at an exclusive awards ceremony on board the MV Silver Sturgeon on the River Thames.

THE WINNERS

DISC OF THE YEAR & CHAMBER AWARD WINNER	Takács Quartet / Beethoven: The Late String Quartets [Decca]
ORCHESTRAL AWARD WINNER	Paavo Järvi / Grieg: Peer Gynt [Virgin Classics]
OPERA AWARD WINNER	Jean-Christophe Spinosi / Vivaldi: Orlando Furioso [Naïve]
VOCAL AWARD WINNER	Thomas Quasthoff [bass-baritone] / JS Bach: Cantatas BWV 56, 82 & 158 [Deutsche Grammophon]
CHORAL AWARD WINNER	Robert King / Michael Haydn: Requiem; Missa [Hyperion]
INSTRUMENTAL AWARD WINNER	Boris Berezovsky [piano] / Chopin-Godowsky: Etudes [Warner Classics]
BEST NEWCOMER WINNER	Julia Fischer [violin] / JS Bach: Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin BWV 1001-1006 [Pentatone]
PREMIERE RECORDING WINNER	Magnus Lindberg: Clarinet Concerto; Gran Duo; Chorale [Ondine]
TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE IN RECORDING WINNER	Berio: Sinfonia/Ekphrasis [Deutsche Grammophon]
DVD – PERFORMANCE WINNER	K Saariaho: L'Amour de Loin [Deutsche Grammophon]
DVD – DOCUMENTARY WINNER	Yehudi Menuhin – The Violin of the Century [EMI Classics]

BBC Music magazine received over 18,000 votes for the short-listed nominations, cast by the general public both online and by post. A strong media campaign across major BBC magazine titles, and significant online promotion including the official awards website where visitors were able to listen to extracts of the nominated recordings, formed a major part of the awards media strategy that encouraged this outstanding response.

Oliver Condy, Editor of *BBC Music* magazine, commented: “The first ever BBC Music Magazine Awards have been a huge success – all 12 winning discs demonstrate what a tremendous year 2005 was for the classical record industry. So many of the year's discs display musicianship of an astoundingly high standard, which has made for one of the most exciting classical awards in recent years. And, by voting, the public has shown just how wide its tastes are, from established symphonic music to newly discovered opera.”

Following a pre-awards retail campaign with HMV in 21 stores across the country, HMV will now be promoting the winning discs in a similar post-awards point of sale retail campaign.

Andy Benham, Publisher of *BBC Music* magazine, said: “When we announced the launch of the awards in October 2005, we said that the success or failure of them would be judged on the simple criteria of whether or not we could stimulate the market and increase sales of classical music CDs. Looking at the sales figures of the nominated discs to date, I'm delighted that both record companies and key retailers have reported excellent uptake of the CDs. Now that the names of the winners are out there, we're hoping that the uplift in the market that we've engendered will continue, if not accelerate. The music industry is currently an incredibly vibrant place to be and we are thrilled that our awards have managed to capture some of this excitement for the classical music genre.”

Representatives from across the classical music industry including major record labels, distributors, retailers, critics, and writers attended the awards lunch, which was hosted by Radio 4's James Naughtie and Oliver Condy, Editor of *BBC Music* magazine.

**BBC**

MUSIC AWARDS 2006

MAGAZINE

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The April issue of *BBC Music* magazine, on sale 16 March 2006 priced £4.10, features full interviews with the winners of the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2006

Full details of the winners are attached, along with jury comments and extracts from winner's interviews with *BBC Music* magazine. Full interviews, as published in *BBC Music* magazine, are available on request.

Exclusive pictures from the awards ceremony will be available to download from 5.30pm on 15 March at:

- <http://bbcmusicmagazine.com/awardsphotos.asp>

Cover images of the winning CDs, full details of the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2006 process and previous press releases will be available to download from 4pm on 15 March at:

- <http://bbcmusicmagazine.com/awardwinners.asp>
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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Panel

- Helen Wallace (Chair) Consultant Editor, *BBC Music Magazine*
- Oliver Condy Editor, *BBC Music Magazine*
- Daniel Jaffe CD Reviews Editor, *BBC Music Magazine*
- John Allison Editor, *Opera* magazine and Chief Music Critic, *Sunday Telegraph*
- Stephen Johnson Writer and presenter, Radio 3
- Martin Cotton Music Critic, *BBC Music Magazine*; Radio and recording producer
- Kate Bolton Music Critic, *BBC Music Magazine*; Producer, Radio 3
- Andrew McGregor Presenter, *CD Review* - Radio 3
- Hilary Finch Music Critic, *The Times*

BBC Music magazine is the world's best-selling classical music magazine, with a monthly circulation of 51,272 (ABC Jul-Dec 2005) and over 30,000 subscribers in the UK and US. *BBC Music* magazine is published by Origin Publishing Ltd., a subsidiary of BBC Worldwide Ltd., the main commercial consumer arm of the BBC.

BBC Origin Publishing, a subsidiary of BBC Worldwide, is one of the UK's fastest growing specialist interest magazine publishers. Written by experts and designed to be informative and inspirational, our magazines and websites now reach enthusiasts around the world. In addition to *BBC Music*, our newsstand titles include *BBC Focus*, *BBC History*, *BBC Sky at Night*, *BBC Wildlife* and *Gardens Illustrated*. We also publish a range of customer titles for clients such as The Royal Opera House, Waterstone's and Roland & Boss.

**BBC****MUSIC AWARDS 2006**
MAGAZINE**THE WINNERS****DISC OF THE YEAR & CHAMBER AWARD WINNER**

- Takács Quartet / Beethoven: The Late String Quartets
- Decca

Jury: "Hearing the Takács in their beautiful and challenging Beethoven is like tasting a vintage brew which has mellowed over the years, yet which is still excitingly fresh on the palate."

Winner: "This CD was a daunting challenge, which we really put a huge amount into. I'm really glad that people are enjoying it. A recording is not a concert, but we managed to get a real spontaneity and fantasy into the music." [Takács leader Edward Dusinberre]

ORCHESTRAL AWARD WINNER

- Paavo Järvi / Grieg: Peer Gynt
- Virgin Classics

Jury: "Järvi brings true theatrical excitement, heartfelt melodic warmth and a grainy, flavoursome feeling for the folk elements. It's all delightful, and ultimately very touching."

Winner: "Arts in the ex-Soviet countries are all poorly funded and things like this really help to secure money from the government, as it shows that our [Estonian National Symphony Orchestra] efforts are being appreciated not just locally, but internationally. The ministry of culture needs to have priorities, and awards such as this help them to believe that they really are backing the winning horses. I'm delighted!" [Paavo Järvi]

OPERA AWARD WINNER

- Jean-Christophe Spinosi / Vivaldi: Orlando Furioso
- Naïve

Jury: "In this visceral, energetic account of Vivaldi's operatic masterpiece, Jean-Christophe Spinosi brings together a truly outstanding cast of soloists creating a thrilling dramatic entity."

Winner: "I am very pleased and proud to receive this award from *BBC Music* magazine, one of the most important magazines in the whole world of classical music. Such awards give us even more energy for the following projects, the energy to go on committing with passion to music, which for me is the medium of emotions par excellence." [Jean-Christophe Spinosi]

VOCAL AWARD WINNER

- Thomas Quasthoff [bass-baritone] / JS Bach: Cantatas BWV 56, 82 & 158
- DG

Jury: "Thomas Quasthoff reveals the guts as well as the beauty of Bach. With his voice at its freshest, throughout its formidable bass-baritone range, he brings a revealing raw physicality to the deeply felt spirituality of these cantatas."

Winner: "With the music tradition in England, it's a great compliment to win a *BBC Music* magazine award as a German artist. Every kind of compliment, especially the honest ones, are the bread of an artist." [Thomas Quasthoff]

CHORAL AWARD WINNER

- Robert King / M Haydn: Requiem; Missa
- Hyperion

Jury: "The King's Consort reveal the Requiem as a sombre, powerful musical monument, while the lighter mass is almost shamelessly joyous. Lovely freshly recorded sound too."

Winner: "The feedback we've had is absolutely astonishing and has taken me completely by surprise. Right from when I looked at the score, I knew it was good music, but I'm so pleased that everybody has agreed with me." [Robert King]

INSTRUMENTAL AWARD WINNER

- Boris Berezovsky [piano] / Chopin: Godowsky Etudes
- Warner Classics

Jury: "Recorded live by Boris Berezovsky at the Snape Maltings in April 2005, this bold disc won for its incredible technical display, beautiful part voicing and exuberant performances."

Winner: "In getting this award, I'm very pleased for Godowsky, who was frowned on for his transcriptions, when actually he did them with the greatest love for Chopin and for the originals." [Boris Berezovsky]



BBC MUSIC AWARDS 2006 MAGAZINE

THE WINNERS

BEST NEWCOMER [Jury Award]

- Julia Fischer [violin] / JS Bach Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin BWV 1001-1006
- CD/SACD hybrid

Jury: "There are many recordings of Bach's works for solo violin but rarely do they reach such breathtaking heights of musicianship as this one. Julia Fischer is an incredible technician and soulful musician who doesn't let an ounce of ego come between the music and the listener."

Winner: "Winning the newcomer award is a wonderful thing because everything for me started in Britain. I won my first competition in Folkestone when I was 11 years old – the Menuhin competition. So anything to do with Britain is somehow always a very nice thing." [Julia Fischer]

PREMIERE RECORDING [Jury Award]

- Magnus Lindberg / Clarinet Concerto; Gran Duo; Chorale
- Ondine ODE

Jury: "Apart from Kari Krikku's stunning playing in the Concerto, there's a dazzling kaleidoscope of colour from Oramo and the orchestra, in music that's completely up to date without losing touch with traditional forms."

Winner: "I'm stunned. It's not 'obvious' music. I wanted to do a real concerto. There was a time when a concerto had to be something like an anti-concerto – against the instrument and against the whole conception of soloist and orchestra. Today I don't see any problem in doing a real concerto where the soloist plays in juxtaposition, or together with the orchestra." [Magnus Lindberg]

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE IN RECORDING [Jury Award]

- Berio / Sinfonia/Ekphrasis
- DG

Jury: "There have been fine recordings in the past, but the jury agreed the Peter Eötvös, London Voices, the Gothenburg Symphony and DG's engineers have produced the best recordings of these works ever made."

Winner: "I was so happy to hear about this award. It is especially pleasing since the recording was made in the frame of my very happy and long-term co-operation with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra." [Conductor Peter Eötvös]

DVD – Performance [Jury Award]

- K Saariaho / L'Amour de Loin
- DG

Jury: "This is a breathtakingly beautiful opera and Peter Sellars' production is both visually striking and dramatically effective. The cast of singers simply couldn't have been bettered and Salonen is a conductor with a unique understanding of the score. The DVD also contains illuminating interviews with the protagonists. One to treasure."

Winner: The opera had a cultural urgency for Sellars: "Here we are today being presented with a clash of civilisations [Islamic and Christian], when in fact there has always been cultural interchange. We as artists could tell a different story, show that something besides as could move across this landscape of separation, that there could be love and not just fear." [Director Peter Sellars]

DVD – Documentary [Jury Award]

- Yehudi Menuhin / The Violin of the Century
- EMI

Jury: "This biopic builds up a picture of the real man behind the musical legend. Monsaingeon clearly admires his subject, but never descends into the empty rhetoric of hero-worship: Menuhin is allowed to analyse the emotional cost of his extraordinary life as a prodigy, the politics of his identity and to reflect on those musicians he worked with. Funny, revealing and instructive. By far the best documentary DVD of 2005."

Winner: "Menuhin threw himself into it [documentary] with a great sense of humour and humanity... For more than 20 years I filmed Menuhin; I never tired of it." [Filmmaker Bruno Monsaingeon]