

WHAT'S NEW



III/2006 June – August

www.supraphon.com

DEBUT



Photo Marco Borggreve

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET

Veronika Jarůšková – 1st violin, Kateřina Gemrotová – 2nd violin,
Pavel Nikl – viola, Peter Jarůšek – cello
Colin Currie – percussion

LEOŠ JANÁČEK – String Quartet No. 2, 'Intimate Letters'
PAVEL HAAS – String Quartet No. 2, 'From the Monkey Mountains', Op. 7 (version with percussion instruments)



NEW RECORDING

SU 3877-2

1 CD

Price code: FL



0 199925 438772 13

The Pavel Haas Quartet, a young ensemble named after a significant 20th century Czech composer, has very quickly attained a place among the top quartets. For their recording debut, the ensemble has chosen Leoš Janáček's greatest work, the famous and often-recorded "Intimate Letters", as well as Pavel Haas' second string quartet. The quartet joins forces here with the 30 year old internationally renowned percussionist from Edinburgh, Colin Currie, to present the version with percussion instruments. Pavel Haas wrote the second string quartet, titled "From the Monkey Mountains", at the age of 26 as a reminiscence of his summer holiday in the Czech-Moravian Highlands, which went by this nickname in Brno at the time. The programme nature of the work is fully consistent with Janáček. The substance and orientation of the music, however, are entirely Haas, underscored by the prescribed ad libitum use of the jazz band.

In 2004 the **Pavel Haas Quartet** won the 'Vittorio E. Rimbotti' award in Florence, then won the first prize at the Prague Spring International Music Competition in May 2005 and took first place at the prestigious Premio Paolo Borciani competition in Reggio Emilia, Italy just one month later.

Since winning the Paolo Borciani competition the Pavel Haas Quartet has quickly become known to audiences, critics and promoters around the world as one of today's most exciting young string quartets.

Already this season the Pavel Haas Quartet has performed in Brussels, Florence, Venice, and has given concerts for the Societa del Quartetto in Milan, Prague Spring Festival and debut tour of the USA. Upcoming highlights for the Pavel Haas Quartet include concerts at the Wigmore Hall, London, Cheltenham Festival, Fontainebleau, France, Musée du Louvre, Paris, as well as further tours of Germany, Italy, the UK and Japan.

This year Supraphon has signed an exclusive contract with the ensemble.

Please contact your Supraphon distributor for specific release dates.

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET – PRESS QUOTES

“By this time next year they will be a household name.”
The Strad, September 2005

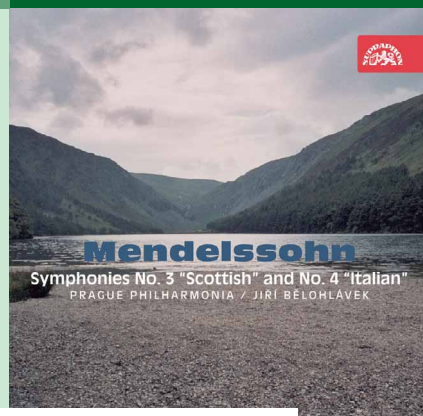
“The Pavel Haas Quartet from the Czech Republic were sensational... their account of Beethoven’s 3rd Rasumovsky quartet, from the miniscule pianissimo at the start to the thrilling, almost orgiastic Russian dance at the end, was breathtaking.”
The Independent, June 2005

“The Pavel Haas also gave a magnificent performance of Beethoven’s third Razumovsky, with the finale as exciting and explosive as I have heard it. They combine virtuosity with a full, glowing sound, and their style is discreetly aristocratic.”
The Sunday Telegraph, June 2005

“I confess I had never heard of Pavel Haas, the Czech composer and pupil of Janáček who died in Auschwitz, but I’d wager that the young quartet honouring him will quickly spread his name ... Their programme spanned two centuries and announced a new name in style. First violin Veronika Jarůšková is simply sensational, at 28 already the finished article, a complete and wonderfully articulate musician ... Closing with ... Janáček’s Intimate Letters, they were clearly on home turf and will surely come to be recognised as first-rank interpreters of the composer’s music.”
The Herald, June 2005



Mendelssohn’s Scottish and Italian symphonies in brilliant performances

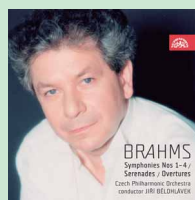


NEW RECORDING

SU 3876-2

1 CD

Price code: FL



SU 3868-2



SU 3631-2

Grammy Awards, Nomination 2005

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No. 3 ‘Scottish’ in A minor, Op. 56
Symphony No. 4 ‘Italian’ in A major, Op. 90

Prague Philharmonia / J. Bělohlávek

Both symphonies recorded here by Jiří Bělohlávek are from Mendelssohn’s peak creative years, the “Italian” dating from 1833 and the “Scottish” from 1842. Both were also inspired by the lands and landmarks of their respective titles, and by Mendelssohn’s travel experiences there. The Scottish Symphony reflects the unique melancholy of the Scottish highlands, and the Italian, on the other hand, is one of Mendelssohn’s merriest, as he himself wrote. This recording is marked by Bělohlávek’s long years of detailed work with this versatile ensemble of energetic musicians. Mendelssohn’s symphonies are part of the Philharmonia’s core repertoire, and Bělohlávek’s artistic experience has transformed them into extraordinary musical treats.

JÍŘÍ BĚLOHLÁVEK

The renowned Czech maestro Jiří Bělohlávek is taking up the position of Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in July 2006. He appears regularly with major orchestras including the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Philharmonia, London Philharmonic and major orchestras in North America. In his homeland, Jiří Bělohlávek has frequently performed with the Czech Philharmonic and Prague Symphony. In 1994 he founded the Prague Philharmonia, and has recorded and toured extensively with this ensemble, including a televised appearance at the BBC Proms in July 2004. He was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in September 1995, immediately following his debut with the orchestra conducting The Epic of Gilgamesh by Martinů.



Photo Clive Barde

Jiří Bělohlávek has been recording for Supraphon for many years and in April he was given a special award for his many recordings made for this label. It is also worth mentioning that Jakub Hrůša, a remarkable talent of the new generation of Czech conductors, is his pupil.

VÁCLAV TALICH Special Edition – volumes 9–11

CD 9 “A beautiful crystal that sparkles with eternal fire.”



WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART – Le nozze di Figaro, Die Zauberflöte – overtures, Symphony No. 33 in B flat major, K 319, Symphony No. 38 ‘Prague’ in D major, K 504
PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY – Suite No. 4 ‘Mozartiana’ in G major, Op. 61

Slovak Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra / Václav Talich

- “A beautiful crystal that sparkles with eternal fire.” (Václav Talich on Mozart’s music)
- Mozart full of life, drama and tension
- Overture to the opera The Magic Flute, Symphonies nos 33 and 38 “Prague” – rare LIVE recordings of Talich with the Czech Philharmonic in 1954
- Tchaikovsky’s colorful “tribute to Mozart and the old masters” – Mozartiana as performed by the Slovak Philharmonic.

SU 3 829-2 recorded 1950, 1951, 1954
1 CD

Price code: MD



0 99925 13 8292 6

CD 10 Two introspective testimonies of pain and of overcoming pain



ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK
Stabat Mater, Op. 58, B 71
JOSEF SUK
Asrael – symphony, Op. 27

Drahomíra Tikalová, Marta Krásová, Beno Blachut, Karel Kalaš, Prague Philharmonic Choir / Jan Kühn, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra / Václav Talich

- Two introspective testimonies of pain and of overcoming pain
- Stabat Mater – a sacred cantata born of the sudden death of three of Dvořák’s children.
- Asrael – a vast funereal symphony written by Suk in mourning for his teacher and father in law Dvořák and for his wife, Dvořák’s daughter Otylie
- “It was truly necessary to experience life and to know human misery, so that I could bow before the Stabat.” (Václav Talich)
- Václav Talich speaks – bonus. A unique recording of Talich’s speech to the orchestra during the recording of Suk’s Asrael on the day of the conductor’s 69th birthday.

SU 3830-2 recorded 1952
2 CD

Price code: MD



0 99925 13 8302 2

CD 11 “Antonín Dvořák knew how to listen to nature..”



ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK
Concert Overtures, Waltzes and Polonaises

Concert overtures (In Nature’s Realm, Carnival, Othello)
Waltzes and Polonaises (Waltzes No. 1 and 4 for String Orchestra, op. 54, Polonaise in E flat major /B 100/, Polonaise from the opera Rusalka, 2nd Act)

Prague Soloists Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra / Václav Talich

- “Antonín Dvořák knew how to listen to nature. The material values of objects change into spiritual values of music.” (Václav Talich)
- The dreamy overture In Nature’s Realm, lively Carnival and dramatically suspenseful Othello
- The enchantment of Dvořák’s short pieces – two waltzes and two polonaises
- Bonus – a 1940 recording of Dvořák’s Waltzes with the Czech Philharmonic

SU 3831-2 recorded 1940, 1948,
CD 1951, 1952

Price code: MD



0 99925 13 8312 1

Tomášek's piano concertos in the world premiere recording

Václav Jan Tomášek
Piano Concertos C major & E flat major

Jan Simon / Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra / Vladimír Válek



**WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDING**

SU 3819-2

1 CD

Price code: FL



0 199925 13 8192 19

VÁCLAV JAN TOMÁŠEK Piano Concertos

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra C major, Op. 18

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra E flat major, Op. 20

Jan Simon - piano

Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra / Vladimír Válek

Václav Jan Tomášek (1774–1850), also known in German as Wenzel Johann Tomaschek, was the most significant Prague musician and widely respected authority of the Prague music scene in the first half of the 19th century. In his apartment in the Lesser Town he received such significant artists as Hector Berlioz, Niccolò Paganini, Clara Schumann or the young Richard Wagner. Most acclaimed out of his prodigious output were his solo piano works – eclogues, rhapsodies and dithyrambs – and songs on German and Czech texts. His first concerto for piano and orchestra in C Major, Op. 18 was probably written between 1803 and 1805, as was his second concerto in E flat major, Op. 20, originally subtitled *Grande Concert pour le Pianoforte avec grande Orchestre*. Both concertos remain well within the commonly accepted boundaries of Classical style around 1800 in their overall formal structure, technical demands and conception of the solo and orchestra parts.

This recording with pianist Jan Simon represents their modern premiere.

JAN SIMON

Jan Simon began to play the piano at the age of seven, studied at the Prague Academy of Music with Russian teacher Valentina Kameníková (a former student of Gustav Neuhaus) and later under Ivan Moravec. After studies in Zürich and the Music Academy of Lübeck (with James Tocco), he himself was invited to teach at this institution.

During his studies he successfully participated in a number of international competitions. He became prize-winner at the Chopin in Mallorca Competition 1985, at the Prague Spring Festival Competition in 1988, the William Kappel Competition USA in 1990, and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels in 1991.

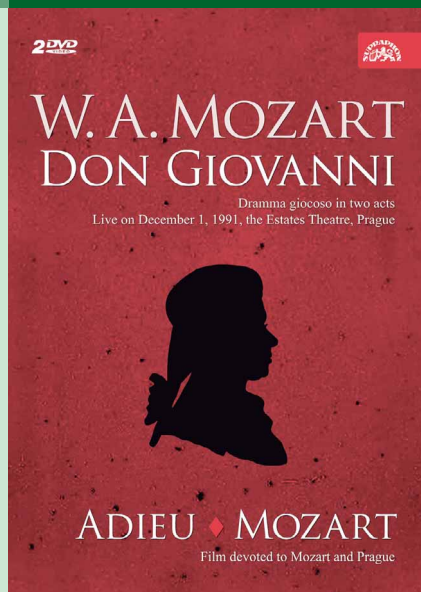
Jan Simon has regularly played with such noted orchestras as the BBC Symphony Orchestra London, the Czech Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de Belgique, the Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Philharmonia and many others. He has worked with prominent conductors like Jiří Bělohlávek, Libor Pešek, Vladimír Válek, Ronald Zollman and others. His concert tours have taken him to most European countries, also to USA, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Egypt, Japan, China and Taiwan.

In January 1996 his recording of the Schulhoff piano concertos (together with Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra and Vladimír Válek) won the MIDEM Classical Award in Cannes, France. In 1994 Jan Simon became the Czech Radio soloist in residence, becoming the youngest performer ever in the history of this institution. Besides his artist's activities he has now become the Executive Director of the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra.



Photo Miro Švolík

Don Giovanni on the stage, where Mozart himself conducted its premiere



SU 7012-9

recorded 1991

2 DVD

Price code: FL



(available for all territories
except Asia including Japan)

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART Don Giovanni (Dramma giocoso in 2 Acts) Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

Andrei Beschasny, Dalibor Jedlička, Nadezhda Petrenko, Vladimír Doležal, Jiřina Marková, Luděk Vele, Zdeněk Harvánek, Alice Randová, Prague National Theatre Chorus and Orchestra, Sir Charles Mackerras

Directed by **David Radok**, sets and costumes by **Tazeena Firth**
From stage performance at the Estates Theatre December 1st, 1991
(Sung in Italian, subtitles in English, German, French and Czech)

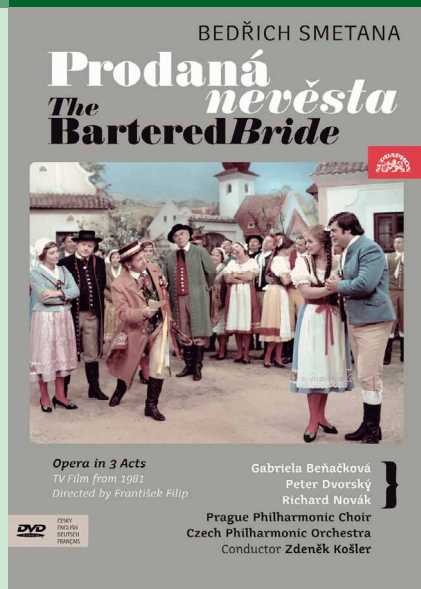
The premiere of Mozart's opera Don Giovanni, subtitled *dramma giocoso*, "a comedy", took place in Prague's Nostic Theatre (today the Estates Theatre) on October 29, 1787. Mozart himself conducted the performance, which was greeted with thunderous applause. In honor of the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death, Don Giovanni was presented at the Estates Theatre on December 1, 1991, conducted by the world-renowned Sir Charles Mackerras. This recording of this celebratory production is an extraordinary musical and theatrical experience from the historical theatre which still bears the marks of the spirit of Mozart's genius.

Adieu Mozart

Film document about the three visits of Mozart in Prague (1787, 1791)
Screenplay Zdeněk Mahler, director Martin Suchánek
Czech, English and German version, subtitles in French

The film, full of authentic details, attractive settings and wonderful music, is more than a documentary. It is an entrancing narration that presents the less known part of the life and art of a musical genius. A strong and emotional story of his three visits in Prague (January and October 1787, August - September 1791) is narrated by Mozart's friend, a star among European concert singers, Josepha Duschek.

Smetana's Bartered Bride on DVD with world-class opera stars



SU 7011-9

recorded 1981

1 DVD

Price code: FL



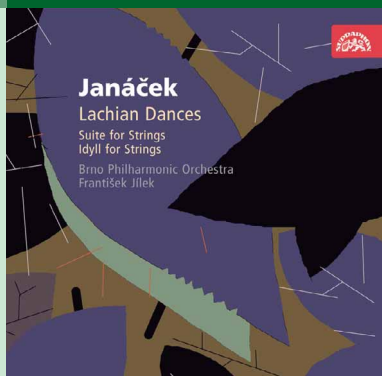
BEDŘICH SMETANA The Bartered Bride (opera in 3 acts)

Gabriela Beňačková, Peter Dvorský, Richard Novák, Miroslav Kopp, Marie Veselá, Jindřich Jindrák, Marie Mrázová, Jaroslav Horáček, Jana Jonášová, Alfréd Hampel
Prague Philharmonic Chorus, choirmaster Josef Veselka
Czech Philharmonic, conductor Zdeněk Košler

1981 Television production
Sets by Jan Zázvorka, costumes by Lída Novotná, cinematography by Ilja Bojanovský,
directed by František Filip

What opera fan doesn't know the famous opera arias "Our True Love", "Make Up Your Mind, Mařenka" or "I Know a Maiden Fair", ageless classics from that treasure of Czech opera, Bedřich Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*? These outstanding vocal and musical talents featuring world-renowned singers Gabriela Beňačková as Mařenka, Peter Dvorský as Jeník, and Richard Novák as Kecal, as well as brilliant performances by the Czech Philharmonic and the Prague Philharmonic Chorus, conducted by Zdeněk Košler became the basis for this 1981 television production directed by František Filip. We are pleased to bring this version, in which the featured singers also play their roles, to the modern audience.

Janáček's orchestral works in unforgettable performances by František Jílek and Philharmonia Brno



SU 3886-2
(originally 11 1520-2)
recorded 1991, 1992
1 CD
Price code: MD



SU 3887-2
(originally 11 1521-2)
recorded 1986, 1991, 1992
1 CD
Price code: MD



LEOŠ JANÁČEK Complete Orchestral Works

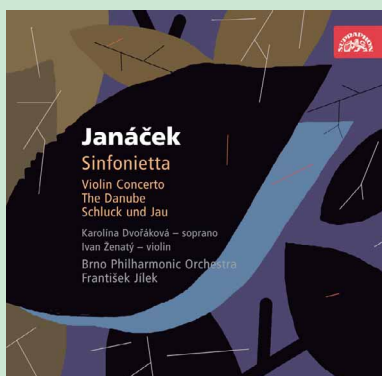
SU 3886-2: Lachian Dances, Suite for Strings, Idyll for Strings

SU 3887-2: Taras Bulba, Adagio, Suite, Jealousy – overture, Serbian Kolo, The Fiddler's Child, The Ballad of Blaník

SU 3888-2: Sinfonietta, The Danube Symphony, The Wandering of a Little Soul (violin concerto), Schluck und Jau

Brno Philharmonia (Brno State Philharmonic Orchestra), conductor **František Jílek**
Ivan Ženaty – violin

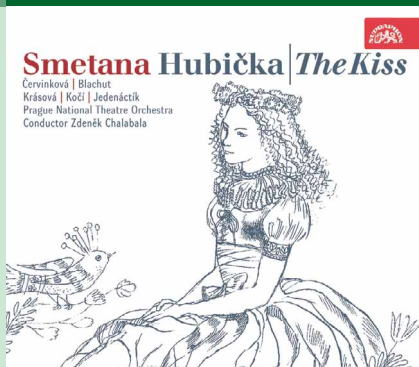
Brno conductor and longtime head of the opera František Jílek, an expert on Janáček's compositions, recorded these orchestral masterpieces in the years 1991-1993 (except for the Sinfonietta, 1986). This complete works set became very popular due to Jílek's extraordinarily intimate knowledge of Leoš Janáček's unique musical language. In 1958, when the first Janáček festival took place in Brno (thanks in part to Jílek himself), he rehearsed and performed all of Janáček's operas, including Fate, as well as most of Janáček's orchestral works. Jílek's recordings are now being rereleased as a priceless artistic documentary of the interpretation of Janáček's original works.



SU 3888-2
(originally 11 1522-2)
recorded 1986, 1992
1 CD
Price code: MD



Legendary singers of the National Theatre Opera in Smetana's The Kiss



FIRST TIME ON CD

SU 3878-2 recorded 1952
2 CDs
Price code: MD



BEDŘICH SMETANA Hubička (The Kiss) – opera in 2 acts Libretto by Eliška Krásnohorská

Ludmila Červinková, Beno Blachut, Marta Krásová, Přemysl Kočí, Vladimír Jedenáctík, Prague National Theatre Chorus and Orchestra / Zdeněk Chalabala

The comic opera *The Kiss*, based on a libretto by Eliška Krásnohorská, was Bedřich Smetana's sixth opera. It was completed in the summer of 1876, premiered in the fall of the same year at the Provisional Theatre, and quickly entered the repertoire, becoming the second most often played opera in Prague (after *The Bartered Bride*). It is still tremendously popular – in the Czech Republic alone there have been roughly 180 productions, both professional and amateur, including 15 at Prague's National Theatre. This 1952 recording of *The Kiss* is one of the treasures of the Supraphon archive. Conductor Zdeněk Chalabala, a Smetana connoisseur, cast the best soloists of the National Theatre in the leading roles, names which today are legendary musical personalities – Ludmila Červinková, Beno Blachut, Marta Krásová. This recording should be in the library of every Czech opera lover.

Please visit our web site for complete catalogue and actual information.
www.supraphon.com