



Igor Stravinsky: Works for Violin

aud 97.697

EAN: 4022143976970



[Fanfare](#) (Michael De Sapio - 01.10.2017)

Quelle: <http://www.fanfarearchive.com/articles/a...>

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Rachel Barton Pine's superbly played—with imaginative ornamentation—and glowingly recorded solo Bach goes to the head of the class and should reconcile devotees of period and modern performance (she plays with a Baroque bow on a modernized Guarneri).

Don't think you'll ever like Bach in English? You might change your mind after hearing Chandos's new recording of Neil Jenkins's brilliant English translation of the St John Passion. It's a revelation, with committed performances all around.

The splendid debut disc of the ensemble The Vivaldi Project highlights lesser known string trios from the galant and Classical eras, played in vibrant style.

Naxos's recording of a pastiche Mass assembled by conductor Franz Hauk from movements by Donizetti and his teacher Johann Simon Mayr suggests that the liturgical output of the bel canto composers is due for a reappraisal. Religious music that is engagingly human and colorful, it deserves to be taken seriously.

It's rare to find so much of Stravinsky's violin music under one roof, and Russian violinist Liana Gourdja's thoughtful performances offer a perfect combination of Russian fire classical poise.