



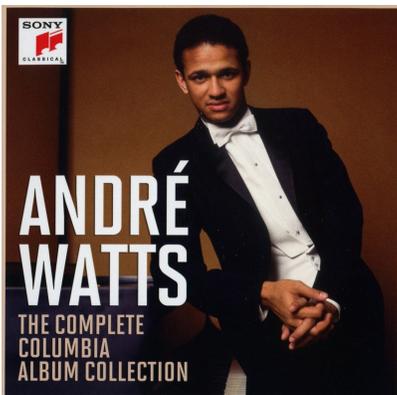
## Sony Masterworks Announces New US Classical Releases for June 2016

### Now Available:

**André Watts: *The Complete Columbia Album Collection* (box set)**  
**Frederica von Stade: *The Complete Columbia Recital Albums* (box set)**  
**Martha Argerich: *The Complete Sony Classical Recordings* (box set)**

### Available June 17:

**Lubomyr Melnyk: *Illirion***  
**Vincent Niclo: *Romantique***



### **André Watts: *The Complete Columbia Album Collection* (box set)**

**Reviewers Rate: CD box \$15.76**

On January 15, 1963, sixteen-year-old American pianist André Watts dazzled television audiences with Liszt's E-flat Concerto on a New York Philharmonic Young People's Concert with Leonard Bernstein, bringing inspiration and hope to a diverse population of music students. When Glenn Gould cancelled a Philharmonic appearance a few weeks later, Watts was called to substitute. His triumphant performances launched an international career.

Long having fulfilled that early promise, Watts remains one of the world's most successful, consistent and communicative musicians as he enters his seventieth year in 2016. To celebrate this milestone, Sony Classical releases a 12-CD set, *André Watts: The Complete Columbia Album Collection*. It documents the pianist's progression from teenage to the youthful maturity revealed in his 1980 Tokyo concerts. In addition to concertos by Chopin, Liszt, Franck, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, Watts' solo Columbia recordings showcase his natural affinity for a wide gamut of works and styles, as in the elegant virtuosity of the pianist's Liszt Sonata, his direct and virile Beethoven interpretations, his affectionate Schubert, his delicately nuanced Debussy and his upbeat, idiomatic Gershwin.

Although thrust into the spotlight early, André Watts allowed himself time to develop and ripen, striking a sensible balance between performing and studying. He enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory, where he worked with Leon Fleisher. At 20 he embarked on his first world tour, made his first extensive Japanese tour in 1974, and, in 1976, gave the first complete American live televised solo recital on "Live from Lincoln Center."

*André Watts: The Complete Columbia Album Collection* features twelve CDs in a clamshell box with booklet, including notes by Jed Distler, full discographical information and archival photos. The contents and sleeves replicate each album's original LP packaging. All of the recordings are newly remastered, with 5 LPs released for the first time on CD.



**Frederica von Stade: *The Complete Columbia Recital Albums* (box set)**

**Reviewers Rate: CD box \$20.57**

*Frederica von Stade: The Complete Columbia Recital Albums* brings together for the first time all recital albums von Stade recorded for Columbia Masterworks from 1974 to 1994. Within this edition 3 albums make their first appearance on CD.

Mezzo-Soprano Frederica von Stade, a.k.a. “Flicka”, was born in 1945 in Somerville, New Jersey and attended the Mannes College of Music in New York City. She made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1970 and in 1971 appeared as “Cherubino” in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Santa Fe Opera. “It was two of the newcomers who left the audience dazzled: Frederica von

Stade as ‘Cherubino’ and Kiri Te Kanawa as the ‘Countess.’ Everyone knew at once that these were brilliant finds. History has confirmed that first impression.” (Eleanor Scott)

“Cherubino” remained her most celebrated signature role, which she sang at her European debut in Versailles 1973, which was the starting point of her great international career. At the inauguration of Jimmy Carter as the 39th President of the United States on January 20 1977, she performed “Take Care of This House” from the Broadway musical *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* by Leonard Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner, accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra. After a hiatus of six years she returned to the Met in 1982 and remained a pillar of the ensemble, highly appreciated by critics and loved by the public.

Trained in the bel canto style, von Stade is known for her roles in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and *La Cenerentola*. In addition to opera, von Stade has also performed a wide range of musicals, from *Show Boat* to *The Sound of Music* to *A Little Night Music* and has appeared on numerous PBS specials, most notably in 1991's *A Carnegie Hall Christmas Concert*, included in this set. Von Stade is also a respected recital artist, performing works ranging from Mozart and Haydn to Mahler to Broadway show tunes. Her LP album of Mahler songs was praised as “cherishable” by Peter G. Davis of *The New York Times*.

Contemporary composers have produced works specifically for von Stade. Richard Danielpour composed *Elegies* for orchestra, mezzo-soprano, and baritone in memory of von Stade’s father, Charles von Stade, who was killed late in World War II, two months before von Stade's birth. In 2008, she created the role of “Madeline” in the opera *Three Decembers*, a part which the composer Jake Heggie had specially written for her. She gave her farewell performance on the opera stage in Heggie’s *Dead Man Walking* at Houston Grand Opera on February 6, 2011 as “Mrs. Patrick de Rocher,” a part also written for her.

Frederica von Stade has made over sixty recordings, including complete operas, aria albums, symphonic works, solo recital programs, and popular crossover albums. Her recordings have garnered six Grammy nominations, two Grand Prix du Disque awards, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Italy’s Premio della Critica Discografica, and “Best of the Year” citations by *Stereo Review* and *Opera News*.



**Martha Argerich: *The Complete Sony Classical Recordings* (box set)**

**Reviewers Rate: CD box \$15.32**

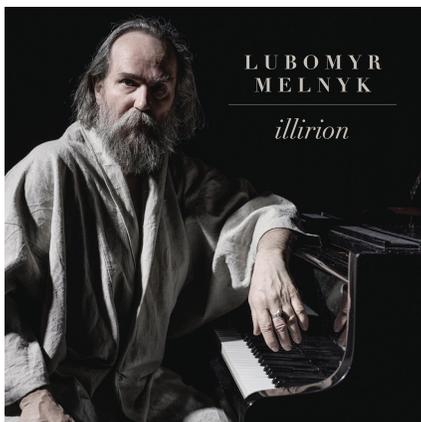
*Martha Argerich: The Complete Sony Classical Recordings* is a 5 CD original jackets collection containing 2 CDs remastered from the original analogue tapes using 24bit/96 kHz technology. The set includes Sergei Prokofiev’s Sonata for Flute and Piano in D major, Op. 94 and César Franck’s Sonata for Flute (Violin) and Piano in A major performed by James Galway, flute and Martha Argerich, piano; César Franck’s Sonata for Violin and Piano in A and Claude Debussy’s Sonata for Violin and

Piano performed by Ivry Gitlis, violin and Martha Argerich, piano; Robert Schumann's *Fantasie in C, Op.17* and *Fantasiestücke, Op.12* performed by Martha Argerich, piano; Ludwig van Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No.2 in B-flat, Op.19* and Joseph Haydn's *Piano Concerto in D, Hob.XVIII-11* performed by Martha Argerich, piano and conductor with the London Sinfonietta; Richard Strauss' *Burleske for Piano and Orchestra in D minor* and Alexander Scriabin's *Prométhée - Le Poème du feu* performed by Argerich and the Berlin Philharmonic led by Claudio Abbado.

Martha Argerich (born June 5, 1941) is an Argentine pianist, widely regarded as one of the greatest pianists of the second half of the 20th century. She rose to international prominence when she won the seventh International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1965, at age 24. In that same year, she debuted in the United States in Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series. In 1960, she had made her first commercial recording, which included works by Chopin, Brahms, Ravel, Prokofiev, and Liszt.

Martha Argerich was born in Buenos Aires. She started playing the piano at age three. At the age of five, she moved to teacher Vincenzo Scaramuzza. Argerich gave her debut concert in 1949 at the age of eight. The family moved to Europe in 1955, where Argerich studied with Friedrich Gulda in Austria. She later studied also with Stefan Askenase and Maria Curcio. Argerich also seized opportunities for brief periods of coaching with Madeleine Lipatti (widow of Dinu Lipatti), Abbey Simon, and Nikita Magaloff. In 1957, at sixteen, she won both the Geneva International Music Competition and the Ferruccio Busoni International Competition, within three weeks of each other. Her greatest influence remained Friedrich Gulda, with whom she studied for 18 months.

Martha Argerich has staged few solo performances, concentrating instead on concertos and, in particular, chamber music, and collaborating with instrumentalists in sonatas. She is noted especially for her recordings of 20th-century works by composers such as Rachmaninoff, Messiaen and Prokofiev. Argerich is president of the International Piano Academy Lake Como and performs each year at the Lugano Festival. She also created and has been General Director of the Argerich Music Festival and Encounter in Beppu, Japan, since 1996.



### **Lubomyr Melnyk: *Illirion***

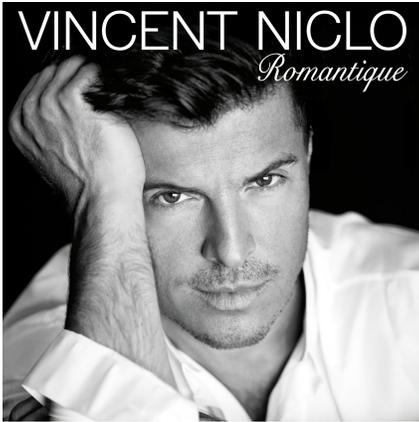
**Release date: June 17, 2016**

Lubomyr Melnyk is one of the most extraordinary composer-pianists of our day. In his Continuous Music he has created a new language of sound for the piano. Melnyk's debut album for Sony Classical, *Illirion*, available June 17, features five works that he has composed and recorded himself. They display the beauty, magic and complexity of Continuous Music in all its many facets. The works are between 4 and 16 minutes long, and the notes, sometimes played with uncanny velocity, blur to create an unbroken stream of sound, often inducing trance-like states and holding listeners spellbound.

Melnyk has been called "The Prophet Of The Piano" because of his life-long devotion to the piano. He composes piano pieces whose sound waves are in a constant state of flux and generate fascinating momentum. This language, which he calls "continuous music," is his own invention, combining and blending influences from American minimal music with late-romantic harmonies and melodies. Since the early 1970s he has produced an astonishing oeuvre of more than 120 works, usually for solo piano or piano duo, and has blazed wholly new paths in contemporary music.

Thanks to his brilliant technique, first captured on a 1978 sound recording, Lubomyr Melnyk has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the fastest pianists in the world, capable of playing almost 19.5 notes per second. Besides this special technique, where the contours of the notes dissolve, the pieces likewise gain a special hypnotic atmosphere from his constant use of the damper pedal. All of them partake of an overarching continuum of sound.

Lubomyr Melnyk has thrilled audiences throughout the world with his recordings and concerts. The *Village Voice* included a Melnyk recording among its “Ten Albums to Hear Before You Die.” Lubomyr Melnyk is of Ukrainian origin. He studied piano privately and received his *Concert Level* Piano Diploma at the age of 16. He studied Philosophy and Latin at university, before devoting his life to the piano. He developed Continuous Music in the early 1970-s while working with the famous dancer and choreographer Carolyn Carlson at the Paris Opera.



**Vincent Niclo: *Romantique***

**Release date: June 17, 2016**

Introducing the new voice of romance, French singer Vincent Niclo with his new album, *Romantique* featuring French ballads, including *She*, *La vie en rose*, *Non, je ne regretted rien*, and more. Born into a musical family, Niclo's first teacher was his father, who taught him about music and educated him in music theory. The turning point came for Niclo when he heard Luciano Pavarotti singing *Nessun dorma* on the radio. The sheer power and emotion of the great man's voice so moved Niclo that he realized that singing was the path he also wished to follow.

After several years of training with Paris Opera's Thierry Dran, supported by a successful modeling career, Vincent Niclo was ready to realize his dream. His lucky break came when he sang for Celine Dion, who immediately invited him to open her series of acclaimed, sold-out concerts. Other collaborations followed, including with the acclaimed singer, Charles Aznavour, Il Divo and the great Plácido Domingo. "Singing is my whole life," says Vincent. "It is who I am, it is how I'm happy and I couldn't imagine ever doing anything else."

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