



Sony Music Masterworks Announces US Classical Releases for June 2017

Available June 2:

Semyon Bychkov & Wiener Philharmoniker - *Schmidt: Symphony No. 2 - Strauss: Dreaming by the Fireside*

Erick Friedman - *The Complete RCA Album Collection* (Reviewer Rate - \$18.12)

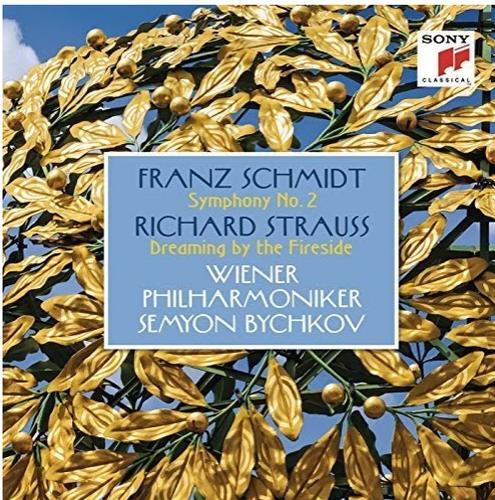
Available June 9:

Musica Fiata - *Eternal Monteverdi*

Available June 16:

Lili Kraus - *Mozart: Piano Concertos* (Reviewer Rate - \$26.00)

John Browning - *The Complete RCA Album Collection* (Reviewer Rate - \$29.38)



Schmidt: Symphony No. 2 - Strauss: Dreaming by the Fireside

Semyon Bychkov, conductor & Wiener Philharmoniker

Available June 2, 2017

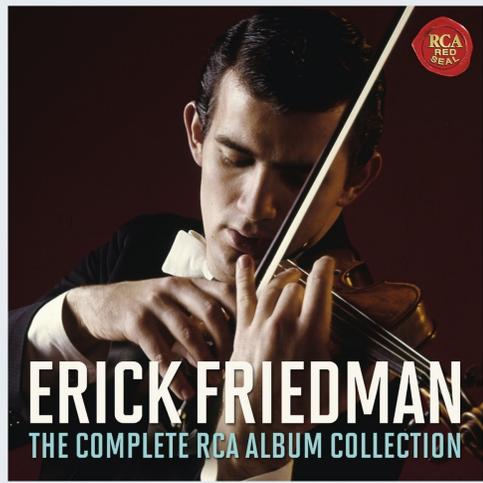
[Private Press Streaming Link](#)

Sony Classical announces the release of Semyon Bychkov and the Wiener Philharmoniker's new recording of ***Schmidt: Symphony No. 2 - Strauss: Dreaming by the Fireside***, available on June 2, 2017. When Bychkov presented the late-Romantic master Franz Schmidt's Second Symphony with the orchestra at the 2015 BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall, the reception was highly enthusiastic. *The Guardian*, praising the "outstanding performance", wrote, "The musicians saved their fire for the Proms premiere of Schmidt's Second Symphony (1911-13), lasting nearly an hour and requiring a supersized orchestra. In three movements, thickly scored yet never smudgy or indistinct, this mammoth curiosity inhabits the Viennese late

Romantic sound world with explosive climaxes and airborne, inventive string writing."

The current revival of interest in Austrian composer Franz Schmidt – his Fourth is now recognized as one of the great symphonies of the 20th century – is about to receive a big boost with a new recording of his lesser-known Second Symphony on Sony Classical. It is performed by the Vienna Philharmonic, in which Schmidt himself played as a cellist, frequently under Gustav Mahler. And in 1913, on the eve of the cataclysm of World War I, his optimistic Second Symphony was premiered. A "work of tremendous, immediate appeal and a compositional tour de force" (*Gramophone Magazine*).

The new recording also contains *Dreaming by the Fireside*, a "symphonic interlude" from the 1924 opera *Intermezzo* by Schmidt's German contemporary Richard Strauss. This languorous, sumptuously scored piece, which opens dreamily with cellos over shimmering winds, perfectly complements the bold and brassy symphony by Franz Schmidt. This album was recorded at the Musikverein, Vienna in 2015.



Erick Friedman - The Complete RCA Album Collection (9-CD Box Set)

Erick Friedman, violin

Available June 2, 2017

Reviewer Rate - \$18.12

Sony Classical releases the first ever collection of the complete RCA recordings of Jascha Heifetz's first student, Erick Friedman. *Erick Friedman - The Complete RCA Album Collection* includes many of the great concertos, sonatas, and encores, plus the first release of the complete set of Bach's violin sonatas on CD, mixed and mastered from the original analogue master tapes. This 9-CD limited edition also includes an informative booklet with full discographical notes and facsimile of LP-sleeves and labels

Friedman was the first person ever to study with the legendary Jascha Heifetz. The *New York Times* called him "a master violinist ... with a distinctly personal and identifiable style of playing." The authoritative string players' magazine *The Strad* declared that his "virtuosity was staggering". Erick Friedman, who died in 2004, is largely remembered today by string players and aficionados, yet he was regarded as one of the finest American-born violinists of the 20th century.

Eric Friedman – Heifetz added the “k” so that his name would have 13 letters like “Jascha Heifetz” and “Fritz Kreisler” – was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1939. A child prodigy, he was accepted as a pupil of the illustrious Ivan Galamian at New York's Juilliard School when he was 10. He made his professional début at 14 and his Carnegie Hall recital début at 17. Two years later – having also studied in the meantime with Nathan Milstein – he interrupted his concert career to move to Los Angeles as Heifetz's first pupil. Over the next three years, he later stated, his playing was transformed while he gained invaluable insights into his teacher's genius. Together in 1961 they made a spectacular recording of the Bach Double Violin Concerto in London (included in this set) – the only time Heifetz ever recorded a duet with another violinist. Friedman's great fortune also turned out to be something of a misfortune when he returned to public performing in the early 1960s. As the tall, handsome violinist put it: "I couldn't win. If I played like Heifetz, I was a carbon copy, a clone. If I didn't play like him, I was less." Though he never completely emerged from his teacher's shadow, Friedman went on to have a major career, and between 1962 and 1966 he followed up the success of the Bach Double Concerto recording with an impressive RCA discography. It is all here in this new reissue, including the Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn concertos (with Seiji Ozawa and the London Symphony Orchestra), the Prokofiev First Concerto (with Erich Leinsdorf and the Boston Symphony, never before released on CD), shorter showpieces by Paganini, Sarasate, Wieniawski, Saint-Saëns, as well as Friedman's two Grammy-nominated recordings: the Franck and Debussy Violin Sonatas (with André Previn) and the Bach Violin Sonatas (with harpsichordist Bruce Prince-Joseph).



Eternal Monteverdi

Musica Fiata

Available June 9, 2017

[Private Press Streaming Link](#)

On June 9, 2017, Sony Classical releases *Eternal Monteverdi*, Musica Fiata's celebration of the great composer's 450th birthday. His impressive output had a major influence on the course of music history and still thrills listeners today with the incomparable quality of his compositions. One of his greatest sacred works is *Vespro della Beata Vergine* from 1610, yet there is another excellent work which has been overlooked until today: the *Vespers for the Blessed Virgin* from 1650.

This work stands out for its wide range of affects, astounding vocal and instrumental combinations, its richness of virtuoso coloraturas as well as its stark musical contrasts. In this setting, Monteverdi creates a unique connection between the polyphonic style of the Renaissance and the wide range of affects characteristic of Baroque style. In addition, a special feature of this work is that instead of the antiphons customary at the time, the music publisher Alessandro Vincenti added not only Monteverdi's Motets from 1624, but also five outstanding works by contemporary composers: Giovanni Rigotti (1613–1648),

Alessandro Grandi (1577–1630) und Massimiliano Neri (1623–1673). This recording by the singers and musicians of Capella Ducale and Musica Fiata directed by Roland Wilson makes an outstanding contribution to Monteverdi's 450th birthday.

Musica Fiata was founded in 1976 as an ensemble for the performance of the music of the 16th and 17th centuries on authentic period instruments. Extensive study of original sources on performance practice, the original instruments of this period and techniques for playing them led to the development of a declamatory and spoken style of performance and a characteristic sound, which make even the densest structures seem transparent. On the basis of their exciting and virtuoso performances Musica Fiata has appeared as a guest ensemble at such leading festivals as Bruges, Prague, Copenhagen, Utrecht, Barcelona, Venice, Ravenna, Israel, Ansbach, Graz, Breslau, and York. In addition to numerous radio and TV recordings, Musica Fiata has an impressive discography of 30 CDs on the Sony Classical, Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, Pure Classics and CPO labels, several of which have won international record prizes.



Mozart Piano Concerts (12-CD Box Set)

Lili Kraus, piano

Available June 16, 2017

Reviewer Rate - \$26.00

Sony Classical reissues the landmark *Mozart Piano Concerto* Cycle with Lili Kraus and the Vienna Festival Orchestra conducted by Stephen Simon, all newly transferred, mixed and mastered from the original analog tapes using 24 bit / 192 kHz technology and released on 12 CDs.

Throughout her long career, pianist Lili Kraus was regarded as a leading Mozart interpreter, who imbued the composer's keyboard works with a stylish fusion of lyricism and strength. Between 1965 and 1966 she recorded Mozart's complete piano concertos in Vienna. The sessions not only realized one of the pianist's long held ambitions, but also helped put the talented young American

conductor Stephen Simon on the map. Shortly after completing the recordings, Kraus and Simon performed the entire cycle in concert at New York's Town Hall.

As an internationally acclaimed scholar/conductor, Stephen Simon (1938–2013) was a major player in the Handel revival in the 1970s and 80s, creating modern performing editions of little-known works, and conducting the American premières of Alexander Balus, Sosarme, and Aci, Clatea e Poliferno, among others. The Kennedy Center served as Simon's base of operations for many years, beginning in 1976 as Music Director of the Handel Festival Orchestra, and from 1988 until 2002 as music director and principal conductor of the Washington Chamber Symphony. Simon's imaginative program concepts included a successful series of Young People's Concerts that led to his co-founding Maestro Classics, a company that produced eleven CDs with Simon leading the London Philharmonic in works designed to introduce children to classical music.

John Browning - The Complete RCA Album Collection (12-CD Box Set)

John Browning, piano

Available June 16, 2017

Reviewer Rate - \$29.38



On June 16, 2017, Sony Classical will release the first ever collection of John Browning's complete recordings for RCA Victor from 1965 to 1996 on 11 CDs, plus an extra CD with a previously unreleased Debussy recital, adding five works to Browning's RCA discography. Six works appear on CD for the first time, remastered from the original analogue tapes using 24 bit / 192 kHz technology. This collection also includes his early single recording for Columbia Masterworks from 1964 of the Barber Piano Concerto and an informative booklet with a new essay by Jed Distler, facsimile's of the LP-sleeves and labels, and full discographical details.

Browning was born to musical parents in Denver, Colorado, in 1933. He studied piano from age 5 with his mother and, at the age of 10, was accepted as a student by Rosina Lhévinne. He appeared as a soloist with the Denver Symphony Orchestra later that same year. In 1945 his family moved to Los Angeles, California. He spent two years at Occidental College there. He began his studies at the Juilliard School in New York with Rosina Lhévinne in 1950. He won the Leventritt Competition in 1955 and made his professional orchestral debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1956. At this point his career came under the management of well-known talent manager Herbert Barrett, later signing with Columbia Artists Management Inc. in the early 1990s.

In 1962 he gave the premiere of Samuel Barber's Pulitzer Prize-winning Piano Concerto, which was written for him, in connection with the opening of Lincoln Center. He subsequently made a commercial recording of the work for Columbia with George Szell conducting the Cleveland Orchestra. His second recording of the work, with Leonard Slatkin and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra in 1991 for RCA Victor, won a Grammy Award for best instrumental soloist with orchestra. Browning won a second Grammy in 1993 with a disc of Barber's solo works on Music Masters. He continued to follow the works of contemporary American composers but found relatively few to his liking.

Browning developed a busy career, giving some 100 concerts a season. He eased his schedule in the 1970s, explaining later that he had grown ragged from overwork. In the 1990s, his career had something of a renaissance. His last public appearance was at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in April 2002. His last performance of all was to an invited audience at the United States Supreme Court in May 2002. He died (from heart failure) at the age of 69 some eight months later in Sister Bay, Wisconsin. John Browning is remembered for his penetrating, intellectual interpretations of Bach, Haydn, Mozart, and Scarlatti, among others, and for his many recordings of the works of these and other composers.

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Sony Music Masterworks comprises Masterworks, Okeh, Portrait, Sony Classical, RCA Red Seal, and Masterworks Broadway imprints.

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