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

Available August 12:

**Semyon Bychkov & Wiener Philharmoniker: *Summer Night Concert 2016* (CD/DVD/Blu-ray)**

Available August 26:

**Jascha Heifetz: *The Magic of Jascha Heifetz* (3-CD box set)**

**Jascha Heifetz: *The Complete Stereo Collection - Remastered* (box set)**



### **Semyon Bychkov & Wiener Philharmoniker: *Summer Night Concert 2016* (CD/DVD/Blu-ray)**

Sony Classical is proud to announce the release of this year's **Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert Schönbrunn 2016**, conducted by Semyon Bychkov with the pianists Katia and Marielle Labèque as soloists. Available August 12, the unique concert experience will be released digitally, on CD, as well as DVD and Blu-Ray.

The Summer Night Concert, performed this year on May 26th 2016, is an annual open-air event which has been held since 2008. The park of Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna/Austria is the magical setting for the concert, which is free of charge for all residents and visitors of the city. The illustrious conductors who have previously led the

orchestra at this event are Georges Prêtre, Daniel Barenboim, Franz Welser-Möst, Valery Gergiev, Gustavo Dudamel, Lorin Maazel, Christoph Eschenbach and Zubin Mehta.

This year's programme focuses entirely on French composers and covers the period between Romanticism and Neoclassicism, providing an overview of the vast stylistic range of French music during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The soloists in Poulenc's Double Concerto in D minor FP 61 are Katia and Marielle Labèque. This is the first time that this particular work has been played at a Philharmonic concert.

Thanks to its UNESCO World Heritage setting in the Baroque park of **Schönbrunn** with the palace as a backdrop, the Summer Night Concert adds great visual charm to its superb musical quality. This event is classical music at its very best – made accessible to a broad public. Millions of viewers and listeners in more than 80 countries followed the concert online, on TV and radio and up to 100,000 Viennese and their guests assembled on the Great Parterre at the heart of Schönbrunn Park for the event. The performance began at dusk on a stage erected in front of the magnificent Neptune Fountain.



### **Jascha Heifetz: *The Magic of Jascha Heifetz* (3-CD box set)**

There is a broad consensus that Jascha Heifetz set a standard of violin playing that has yet to be surpassed. Fellow violinists have called him "the High Priest of our profession" (Carl Flesch), "the greatest violinistic influence since Paganini" (Ruggiero Ricci), "the Emperor" (Henryk Szeryng), "the King of us all" (Pinchas Zukerman), and "God" (Itzhak Perlman). His playing continues to inspire new generations of musicians.

This collection highlights the Heifetz magic by bringing together a broad cross-section of his stereo recordings. Sony Classical has remastered all of them from the original analogue tapes in 24 bit / 96 kHz technology to bring out their best sound and is also releasing a separate set of the complete remastered stereo recordings. All of the performances in this sampler set were recorded after 1956—the last year that Heifetz

embarked on an extensive concert tour. Although they capture the playing of his twilight years, the inimitable Heifetz standard is evident throughout.

These three CDs mirror the structure of the complete set of remastered stereo recordings, which is grouped together by sets of concerto performances, chamber music performances, and recitals in “Jascha Heifetz – The Complete Stereo Recordings - Remastered”



**Jascha Heifetz: *The Complete Stereo Collection - Remastered* (box set)  
Reviewers Rate: CD Box \$43.78**

Jascha Heifetz has been called the first and greatest of all virtuosos. Critics agree that, for once, a record company's blurb approached the truth when RCA once dubbed him “The Violinist of the Century.” Now all of Heifetz's stereo recordings are being issued together in a single Sony Classical box of 24 CDs, coupled by composer or theme and all newly remastered from the original analogue tapes in 24-bit quality. Heifetz authority John Maltese provides a new introductory note. Each individual album will also be available in “Mastered for iTunes” format as a 24-bit download.

Less than two weeks after his sensational US debut at Carnegie Hall, a 16-year-old Russian émigré named Jascha Heifetz – protégé of the legendary St. Petersburg violin teacher Leopold Auer and already acclaimed in Europe – made his first Victor recordings. Some 40 years later he began re-recording much of the mainstream violin repertoire for RCA Victor in stereo. These performances “find Heifetz at his most intense and glowing,” wrote *Gramophone* in its March 1988 obituary, “and their continued release on CD is building up a stunning three-dimensional sound-picture of Heifetz at his peak.”

In warhorses like the Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius concertos, his stereo LPs set new standards. Reviewing a previous reissue, *ClassicsToday* exclaimed: “Heifetz and Munch play the [Beethoven] with a classical poise and chiseled perfection. It goes without saying that Heifetz's flawless intonation and ear-catching articulation leave most other players in the shade. As for the Mendelssohn, this is simply the greatest performance yet recorded. The work was made for Heifetz: Mendelssohn was himself a romantic of classical restraint and created a virtuoso showpiece that requires total control over the instrument.” Another typical Heifetz review, this time from *Fanfare* on his Bruch and Vieuxtemps: “There was simply no one who could play this florid Romantic music like Heifetz ... This is the finest recording of Bruch's masterpieces ever made in terms of both performance and sound.”

As the *Gramophone* obituary also noted, it is doubtful if any other international soloist lavished so much time and energy on chamber music, notably in the concerts and recordings with cellist Gregor Piatigorsky, which began in 1961 and are documented in this collection. Heifetz's repertoire also featured a vast array of show-stopping virtuoso pieces and his own brilliantly effective transcriptions. Those are also generously represented in this box set.

The great violinist's last “session” was a live recording of his last public performance, on 23 October 1972 in Los Angeles. Here it is complete on two CDs. Critic Tim Page has written that “the program – in both its planning and its execution – was not markedly different from one Heifetz might have offered decades before. From the beginning of the Franck Sonata – rapt, centered, directly linear in its phrasing, immaculately aristocratic in its bearing – there can be no mistaking the artist ... There is something noble about Heifetz's constancy. Few performing artists have exercised such meticulous control over their creative lives.”

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