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

Available October 7:

Jonas Kaufmann: *Dolce Vita*

Jonas Kaufmann: *Fidelio* (DVD)

Nikolaus Harnoncourt: *The Complete Sony Recordings* (box set)

Claudio Arrau: *The Complete Victor and Columbia Album Collection* (box set)

Leontyne Price: *Prima Donna Assoluta* - The Ultimate Opera Recordings Remastered (22-CD box set with book)

Available October 14:

Lucas Debargue: *Bach, Beethoven, Medtner*

Evgeny Kissin: *The Complete RCA & Sony Classical Album Collection* (box set)

Available October 21:

Mormon Tabernacle Choir *The Ultimate Christmas Collection* (box set)

Available October 28:

Philip Glass: *The Complete Sony Recordings* (box set)

Charles Munch: *The Complete Album Collection* (box set)

The Piano Guys: *Uncharted*

Various Living Stereo Collection, Vol. 3 (box set)



### *Dolce Vita*

Jonas Kaufmann, tenor

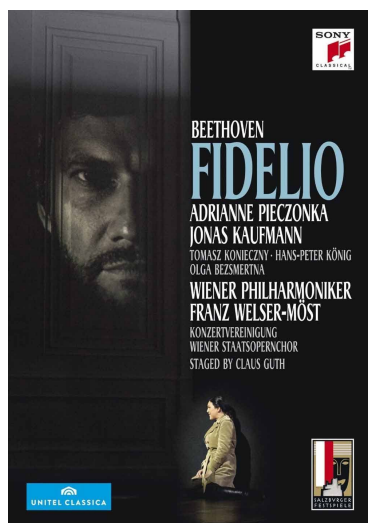
Available October 7, 2016. Stream the album [HERE](#).

Italy and its immortal music have a magical pull on people like no other culture. Jonas Kaufmann, long familiar with Italy's ways has had his own special bond with the country since his youth. The new album, *Dolce Vita* is his tribute to this culture, this way of life that has conceived one immortal melody after the other for the tenor voice. Available October 7, Sony Classical is proud to release this special [collection](#) of timeless Italian songs – sung by “The world’s greatest tenor” (*The Daily Telegraph*).

Growing up in Germany's most southern city, Munich (locally known as “the most northern city of Italy”) meant that holidays in Italy were just a car ride away for him and his family. Since spending these childhood holidays playing with local *bambini*, Jonas Kaufmann has absorbed much more than just the Italian language; its southern temperament, its love of good food, and its fashion and flair, Jonas feels very much at home in this adopted culture. Naturally, much of the magic and authority that Jonas brings to the opera stage stems from his passion and understanding of this Mediterranean land and its music.

On *Dolce Vita*, Jonas presents his own personal homage to a culture where the influence and beauty of opera are felt far beyond the walls of the opera houses, through wondrous works for tenor such as “Mattinata,” which was dedicated to Enrico Caruso; “Non ti scordar di me,” which was first sung by Beniamino Gigli in the 1935 movie of the same title; and “Parlami d'amore, Mariù,” written for the future film director Vittorio De Sica to sing in the comedy *Gli uomini, che mascalzoni*. The passion and beauty of Italian melody can also be heard in such Neapolitan hits as “Torna a Surriento,” “Core 'ngrato” and “Passione.” Even some of today's pop songs display the unmistakable stamp of *italianità*, as for

example in “Un amore così grande,” which was first sung and recorded by Mario Del Monaco in 1976, or in Lucio Dalla’s *Caruso* and Romano Musumarra’s “Il canto,” written expressly for Luciano Pavarotti. Jonas recorded the album in Palermo with conductor Asher Fisch and the Orchestra del Teatro Massimo di Palermo, who bring their innate Italian flair to this music.



### ***Fidelio* (DVD)**

**Jonas Kaufmann, tenor**

**Available October 7, 2016**

On October 7, 2016, Sony Masterworks releases the DVD of Claus Guth’s strikingly experimental new production of *Beethoven's Fidelio*, which drew fervent reactions at its premiere at the 2015 Salzburg Festival. On an elegantly spartan set - suggestive of Freud’s ‘salon of the unconscious’ - the opera is reworked with amplified noises and ambient sounds substituting for the traditional dialogue and the inclusion of hand-signing doppelgangers who shadow some of the lead characters." Jonas Kaufmann’s gorgeously sung Florestan” (*Financial Times*) and Leonora - “triumphantly sung by Adrienne Pieczonka” (*The Guardian/Observer*) - masterfully execute Guth’s conceptual exploration of the mind’s ability to self-impose its own prison. The opera was conducted by Maestro Franz Wesler-Möst with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.



### ***Nikolaus Harnoncourt: The Complete Sony Recordings* (61 CD, 3 DVD box set with book)**

**Nikolaus Harnoncourt, conductor**

**Available October 7, 2016**

**Reviewers Rate: \$84.11**

*Nikolaus Harnoncourt – The Complete Sony Recordings* brings together for the first time Harnoncourt’s complete recordings from 2001–2015 with his Concentus Musicus Wien, the Wiener Philharmoniker, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks.

The Sony Classical edition features his famous symphony recordings of Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Bruckner, alongside his celebrated performances of great choral works such as the Verdi, Brahms and Mozart Requiems and Haydn’s *Die Schöpfung*, as well as Mozart’s opera *La clemenza di Tito*, Haydn’s *Orlando paladino* and Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*. Also included are previously authorized but unreleased recordings of J. S. Bach’s Cantatas Nos. 26 & 36, Beethoven’s *Christus am Ölberge* and Dvořák’s *Stabat Mater*.

The set comes with a 136-page coffee-table book featuring a newly written essay on Nikolaus Harnoncourt – musician, conductor and researcher – plus all of his own liner notes and interviews that came with the original releases. The edition also contains Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* on DVD, the DVD documentary *Mission Mozart* with pianist Lang Lang, rehearsal excerpts, interviews and lectures by Harnoncourt on CD and DVD, and finally the complete sung texts on CD-ROM. 61 CDs and 3 DVDs – the authoritative artistic legacy of one of the most charismatic and significant figures in the world of classical music.

***Claudio Arrau: The Complete RCA Victor and Columbia Album Collection*  
(12 CD box set)**

**Claudio Arrau, piano**  
**Available October 7, 2016**  
**Reviewers Rate: \$18.03**

Claudio Arrau (1903–1991) was a singular figure among the great pianists of his time, who strived to fuse the best that nineteenth- and twentieth-century performing traditions had to offer. Arrau's 1941–1952 American recordings for Victor and Columbia represent the pianist on prime form at one of the peaks of his long career. Sony brings this body of work together for the first time in a comprehensive edition, vividly remastered from the original sources.

Born in Chillán, Chile, on February 6, 1903, Arrau gave his first recital at five. Three years later the Chilean government awarded the prodigy a ten-year grant to study in Germany. Martin Krause, one of Liszt's last pupils, nurtured the young pianist, gave him daily lessons, supervised his practice, and took him to concerts, museums, and the opera. At 24 Arrau won the 1927 International Geneva Prize, and embarked on his legendary cyclical programs encompassing the complete sonatas of Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert and Weber, plus all of Bach's solo keyboard in twelve Berlin concerts. A triumphant 1941 Carnegie Hall recital launched Arrau's American career, and his international profile came into focus with numerous worldwide tours, honors, prizes and recording sessions that continued up until his death on June 9, 1991 in Müzzuslag, Austria.

***Leontyne Price: Prima Donna Absolute - Her Ultimate Opera Recordings***  
**Remastered (22 CD box set with book)**

**Leontyne Price, soprano**  
**Available October 7, 2016**  
**Reviewers Rate: \$43.78**



She has repeatedly been called the supreme Verdi soprano of her time, even of the entire 20th century. As she approaches her 90th birthday in early 2017, Sony Classical takes pride in saluting prima donna assoluta Leontyne Price with a new reissue of ten complete opera recordings from this great American artist's matchless discography.

John Steane, perhaps the leading authority on classical singing, wrote in his book *The Grand Tradition* that "records show her as the best singer of Verdi among the sopranos of this century," but he then went on to single out as Price's most brilliant recorded performance her 1963 *Carmen*, with the Vienna Philharmonic conducted by one of her greatest admirers and frequent collaborators, Herbert von Karajan. *Gramophone*, reviewing one of this classic set's recent reissues, concurred: "Price's *Carmen* positively insinuates herself into your listening room, a very real and alluring presence ... As singing, her account of the role marvellously contrasts the light, airy, seductive Carmen of the earlier acts with the fatalistic woman of the last two... In the finale, Price and [Franco] Corelli [as Don José] evince an extraordinary animal passion, overwhelming in its intensity." The extraordinary cast also features Mirella Freni as Micaëla and Robert Merrill as Escamillo.

As for Leontyne Price's "supreme" Verdi, five operas in this new release range from the early *Ernani* to a masterpiece of the composer's full maturity, *Aida*. From 1969, Price, Bergonzi and Merrill's celebrated recording of *Un ballo in maschera* under Erich Leinsdorf "still packs a real punch" (*Presto Classical*). RCA's 1964 set of the epic *La forza del destino*, with Price, Merrill, Richard Tucker "and a strong supporting cast under Thomas Schippers's intelligent leadership," declared the *New York Times*, "offers glorious voices in top form and serious in their artistic concentration." Reviewing this performance, *BBC Music Magazine* proclaimed that "Leontyne Price, the supreme Verdi soprano of her time, is at her best," and in her 1970 recording of *Aida* under Leinsdorf, the same magazine wrote that "Price is unsurpassed ... and has Domingo and Milnes on top form and Grace Bumbry as a formidable Amneris." Puccini's tragic heroines were another of Leontyne Price's calling cards. Three are represented in this new Sony Classical release, including *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Il tabarro*. Finally, something completely different: "Price did some of her most treasurable work with Mozart," notes The Metropolitan Opera Guide in discussing her assumption of Fiordiligi in the 1967 Leinsdorf recording of

*Così fan tutte*, and “the richness and fullness of the sound and the unstinting emotional commitment make this performance irresistible.”



***Bach, Beethoven, Medtner***

**Lucas Debargue, piano**

**Available October 14, 2016 - Stream the album [HERE](#).**

Sony Classical is delighted to announce the release of French pianist Lucas Debargue's first studio album, *Bach, Beethoven, Medtner*. “This repertoire is more intellectual and cerebral than the music I recorded live for my debut album, as well as more intimate and inward-looking, which is why I wanted to record it in the studio,” explains Debargue. He adds, “It was a really interesting experience to make the recording in Berlin in a studio, where I could cut myself off from the outside world and focus purely on the music.”

Debargue caused a sensation last year when he entered the Tchaikovsky Competition, one of the most demanding and high-profile music competitions in the world: a complete unknown, he soon became the audience favorite. After his second round, in which he gave a dazzling performance of Medtner's Sonata, op. 5 – the centerpiece of this new album – the ovations lasted a good fifteen minutes, according to legend only ending when someone cut off the electricity to the hall. Once the winners had been announced and Debargue awarded fourth prize, the disagreements between the jury members became public. Boris Berezovsky dubbed the French musician a “genius” and even the austere Dmitri Bashkirov said that he had the talent to become one of the world's greatest pianists within two years. The Moscow Music Critics Association, meanwhile, expressed its protest against what it saw as an injustice by creating a brand-new award for “the pianist whose incredible gift, artistic vision and creative freedom have impressed the critics as well as the audience.” All in all, an astonishing outcome for someone who had never touched a piano before the age of 11, gave it up again almost completely between 17 and 20 and, most significantly, only began to study the instrument with any real seriousness four years before the Tchaikovsky Competition of 2015.

At the heart of Debargue's new release is the Sonata in F minor by Nikolay Medtner, a composer whose music is now enjoying a resurgence of interest after many years of neglect. Debargue's performance at the Tchaikovsky Competition drew applause from the audience, many of whom were hearing the work for the first time, as early as the end of the opening movement. The pianist was then keen to shine the spotlight on Beethoven's Sonata No. 7 in D, op. 10 no. 3, which has always been somewhat overshadowed by its successor, the “Pathétique”. “No. 7 is too often seen as a transitional sonata, whereas in fact it played a pivotal role in both Beethoven's life and his work. He wrote a huge amount about this sonata in his correspondence, and saw the slow movement as one of his greatest achievements,” says Debargue. The first work on the album is Bach's Toccata in C minor, BWV 911, a piece with which Debargue likes to open some of his concerts, as a kind of mental warm-up. He sees it as a “set of variations created by the numerous repetitions of the theme, a kind of “how to” guide to the keyboard, if you like – a mini manual of technique”.



**Evgeny Kissin: *The Complete RCA & Sony Classical Album Collection*(25 CD box set)**

**Evgeny Kissin, piano**

**Available October 14, 2016**

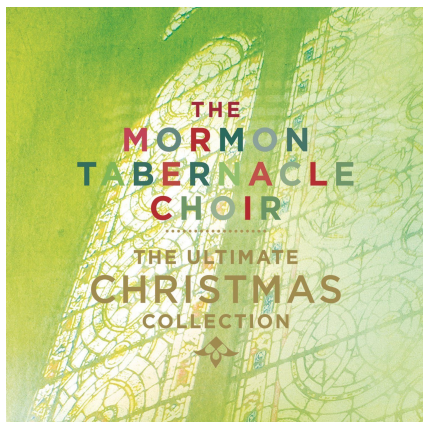
**Reviewers Rate: \$52.53**

On October 14, 2016, Sony Masterworks releases *Evgeny Kissin: The Complete RCA & Sony Classical Album Collection*. The career of Evgeny Kissin (1971) after the studies at the Gnessin Musical College in Moscow, early directs to the discography. At the age of 11, Kissin makes his debut with the Ulyanovsk Symphony Orchestra and during the

following year he plays in his first piano solo recital in Moscow. The talent of Kissin explodes on the international scene in 1984 when he records the two piano concertos by Chopin with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Moscow. In 1985 he first



plays in the UK, alongside Maxim Vengerov and Vadim Repin and the Director Valery Gergiev. At the New Year's Concert in 1988, Kissin plays the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No.1 by Tchaikovsky with the Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert von Karajan. In September 1990, he makes his debut in North America with the two concertos by Fryderyk Chopin with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Zubin Mehta. He also performs in the 100th season of the Carnegie Hall. At Teatro alla Scala in Milan he plays solo recitals in 1991, 1997 and 2005 and in 2010 he plays the Piano Concerto No. 2 by Chopin. Many of these extraordinary achievements are included in the box set documenting all of Kissin recordings for RCA and Sony Classical. This specially priced hardcover box set faithfully reproduces all the original LP and album covers.



***The Ultimate Christmas Collection***  
**The Mormon Tabernacle Choir**  
**Available October 21, 2016**

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, America's best-loved choral ensemble, sings a wide variety of Christmas favorites from classical hymns like Handel's *Hallelujah* Chorus and Schubert's *Ave Maria* to popular yuletide favorites like Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* and Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. *The Ultimate Christmas Collection* is a retrospective that spans several decades of the choir's recordings and features guests artists and conductors including Marilyn Horne and Leonard Bernstein.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is dedicated to the universal language of music that has the power to bring joy, peace, and healing to its listeners. Made up of hundreds of volunteers from all walks of life, this unique music organization transcends cultural and generational boundaries and brings together people from around the world through stirring music. The Choir, the Orchestra at Temple Square, and the Bells on Temple Square act as goodwill ambassadors for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



***Philip Glass: The Complete Sony Recordings (24 CD box set and book)***  
**Philip Glass, composer**  
**Available October 28, 2016**  
**Reviewers Rate: \$52.54**

To celebrate the 80th birthday of the legendary American composer, *The Complete Sony Recordings* is the first ever release of Philip Glass Sony Classical recordings together in a limited-edition box set. The 24-CD set includes the first ever release of *Glassworks* specially mixed for your personal cassette player on CD, a 44 minute interview with Philip Glass on *Glassworks* (previously only available on a Columbia 7), the original motion picture soundtrack to *Naqoyqatsi* featuring Yo-Yo Ma, a hard bound book with the original liner notes, most penned by Glass himself, plus full discographical notes and complete libretti.

Philip Glass (born January 31, 1937) is an American composer considered one of the most influential music makers of the late 20th century. His music is also often controversially described as minimal music, along with the work of the other "major minimalists" La Monte Young, Terry Riley and Steve Reich. Glass has distanced himself from the "minimalist" label, describing himself instead as a composer of "music with repetitive structures". Though his early mature music shares much with what is normally called "minimalist", he has since evolved stylistically. Currently, he describes himself as a "classicist", pointing out that he is trained in harmony and counterpoint and studied such composers as Franz Schubert, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with Nadia Boulanger.

Glass has founded his namesake musical group, the Philip Glass Ensemble, with which he still performs on keyboards, and has written operas, musical theatre works, ten symphonies, eleven concertos, solo works, chamber music, including

seven string quartets and instrumental sonatas. He has been nominated for three Academy Awards for his scores for *The Truman Show*, *Kundun* and *Notes on a Scandal*.



**Charles Munch: The Complete RCA Album Collection (86 CD box set and book)**

**Charles Munch, conductor**

**Available October 28, 2016**

**Reviewers Rate: \$97.20**

Sony Classical presents a new reissue of all the recordings that Charles Munch, one of the most dynamic and charismatic conductors of the 20th century, made for RCA Victor while in Boston conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Munch turned the BSO into arguably the greatest French orchestra in the world while preserving its sovereignty in the American, Austro-German, central European and Russian repertoires. An 86-CD box set, The Complete Album Collection marks the first time that this cornerstone of the classical catalogue has been available in a single box with 16 works new to CD and 29 works newly remastered from the original analogue tapes. The new set also contains Munch's 1963 French-music compilation with the Philadelphia Orchestra for American Columbia.

Charles Munch (originally Münch) was born in Strasbourg in 1891, during the brief period when Alsace-Lorraine was part of the German Empire. He himself straddled the two cultures: trained as a violinist at the conservatories of Strasbourg and Paris, he was conscripted into the German army in World War I. After the war he taught at the conservatory and played in the orchestra of Strasbourg (by then French again) from 1920 until he was appointed concertmaster of the illustrious Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in 1926 under Wilhelm Furtwängler and Bruno Walter. After making his own podium début in Paris in 1932, Munch settled there and established his reputation as one of the leading French conductors of the day, championing the music of Berlioz as well as of such contemporaries (and friends) as Honegger, Roussel and Poulenc. Following World War II – during which he strongly supported the French resistance (he was awarded the Légion d'Honneur in 1945) – his international career took off. In 1946 he made his début with several US orchestras, including the Boston Symphony. Three years later, aged 58, he was appointed by that patrician ensemble to succeed Serge Koussevitzky as music director.

Reflecting his own cultural duality, Munch turned the BSO into arguably the greatest French orchestra in the world while preserving its sovereignty in the American, Austro-German, central European and Russian repertoires. He took the orchestra on an unprecedented tour of the Soviet Union in 1956 and premiered many important BSO commissions.



**Uncharted**

**The Piano Guys**

**Available October 28, 2016**

Global music internet sensation The Piano Guys, announce the release of their new album Uncharted. *Uncharted* includes their brand new song *Okay*. Written by hit-makers Andy Grammer and Dave Bassett, the upbeat track features TPG's own Al van der Beek on vocals. The music video for *Okay* just made its premiere on YouTube – [check it out here](#).

"We wanted to try something different for our new song, *Okay*," says Steven Sharp Nelson. "We sidestepped our standard classically-influenced instrumental niche and did something more pop-driven featuring Al's superb vocal talent! We felt as though this was the best way to spread the positive message behind this song. We hope our fans love it." The new album *Uncharted* features all of The Piano Guys' recent hits including *Fight Song/Amazing Grace*, *A Sky Full of Stars*, *Hello/Lacrimosa*, and *Jungle Book/Sarabande*, all available for the first time on CD.

The Piano Guys – Steven Sharp Nelson, Jon Schmidt, Al Van der Beek and Paul Anderson – became an online sensation by way of their immensely successful series of strikingly original self-made music videos, which recently surpassed 1 billion views and garnered over 5 million subscribers on YouTube. They've made over 50 music videos since 2011, including their breakout hit, an innovative multi-handed version of One Direction's *What Makes You Beautiful* and a gorgeous reinvention of the hit song "Let It Go" from Disney's *Frozen*. To date, the Utah-based classical-pop group has released five major label albums on Portrait/Sony Music Masterworks: *Wonders*, *The Piano Guys*, *The Piano Guys 2*, a holiday album called *A Family Christmas*, and most recently *The Piano Guys – Live!* featuring live music from their sold out Red Rocks and Carnegie Hall concerts.



***Living Stereo - The Remastered Collector's Edition (60 CD box set and book)***  
**Various Artists**

**Available October 28, 2016**

**Reviewers Rate: \$63.08**

*Living Stereo - The Remastered Collector's Edition* is a celebration of high-fidelity analogue recording, featuring all 60 CDs newly remastered from the original 2- and 3-track master tapes using 24 bit / 192 kHz technology. The set also includes a hardcover bound book with a new introduction by discographer Michael Gray, full discographical notes and content listings.

Early in the fall of 1958, the world of high-fidelity music reproduction changed forever. The promise of multi-channel reproduced sound, under development for decades in the laboratory, and previously heard only in specially equipped cinemas or by wealthy hi-fi aficionados, could now be enjoyed by anyone in their own home, thanks to the latest innovation in recorded sound, the stereophonic LP record. Among the dozens of companies then offering these new records, one stood out from the rest: RCA Victor. With more than half a century of collaboration with the world's greatest musical artists, from Caruso and Farrar to Stokowski, Toscanini, Heifetz and Rubinstein, and drawing on its unequalled technical expertise, RCA proudly announced its own "Living Stereo" multi-channel disc, the newest and most advanced development of RCA's venerable New Orthophonic High Fidelity.

Supporting the debut of "Living Stereo" were the technical skills of RCA Victor engineers, and the invaluable expertise of RCA's corporate sound researchers. From the very first "binaural" experiments with Leopold Stokowski and his orchestra on October 6, 1953 in New York's Manhattan Center, RCA's team of producers and engineers rapidly developed the techniques and recording gear that culminated in the first "Living Stereo" sensation, Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* with Fritz Reiner and the Chicago Symphony. These techniques were further developed in the months that followed, and within a year, recording in stereo had become the standard for documenting RCA's incomparable classical artists.

RCA Victor built an unparalleled library of two-channel recordings on LP that have earned "Living Stereo" the esteem and affection of generations of musical lovers. Today, thanks to the digital revolution and to improvements everywhere in sound technology, the heritage of "Living Stereo" is introduced to new generations of music lovers, sounding better than ever, and reaffirming the slogan, "The World's Greatest Artists are on RCA Victor Records".

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