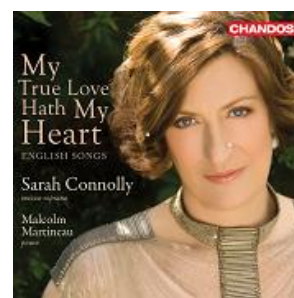


October 2011 New Release

CHAN 10691 – Sarah Connolly sings English Songs

Sarah Connolly gave a concert performance of this programme at the Alice Tully Hall in New York in April this year. The *New York Times* wrote: 'Ms Connolly's voice was strong and steady through the range, velvety, but with a soft, subtle graininess that gave weight and presence to even her most ethereal floated notes.' She is ably accompanied by the pianist Malcolm Martineau as they explore four arrangements by Benjamin Britten, and eleven songs dating from the 1920s. This period is often considered a golden decade for English songs, with contributions from Ivor Gurney, Peter Warlock, John Ireland, and Herbert Howells. The compilation also includes a short song cycle by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, *A History of the Thé Dansant*, which was published in 1995 and is surreally retro.



CHAN 10692 – Schumann: Three String Quartets, Op. 41

Schumann's three string quartets, published as Opus 41, are masterpieces of the nineteenth-century chamber music repertoire. They were completed during a period of intense creative activity in 1842, after Schumann had been studying the quartets of Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn. They are quintessentially romantic, full of melody and creative imagination. The Doric String Quartet is one of the most impressive young quartets on the classical music scene today. It performs throughout the UK, Europe, and Asia. The magazine *Gramophone* wrote of the Quartet's recording of Korngold's Quartets: 'The Doric Quartet plays with great refinement and energy.'

CHAN 10703 – Fantasies for Bassoon

Chandos signed Karen Geoghegan as an exclusive artist in 2007 following her appearance on BBC TV's programme *Classical Star*. The expressive maturity and sensitivity of her playing have quickly cemented her status as a rising star. The magazine *Gramophone* wrote: 'Name five internationally famous bassoon soloists: Archie Camden, Gwydion Brooke and er, that's it. Except I think we shall soon be adding the name of Karen Geoghegan to the roll call.' In this her fifth disc for Chandos, she plays a variety of works by Schubert, Schumann, Spohr, Schreck, Rachmaninoff, and Elgar. Only Schreck's Sonata was originally written for bassoon but all the pieces demonstrate the great lyrical and expressive quality of the instrument. Karen Geoghegan is accompanied by the pianist Philip Edward Fisher.



CHSA 5094 – Delius: Double Concerto / Violin Concerto / Cello Concerto

Delius's three major concertos involving string instruments are presented here together on one disc for the first time. The Classic BRIT Award winner Tasmin Little is the soloist in the Violin Concerto, Paul Watkins is the soloist in the Cello Concerto, and they join forces in the rarely performed Double Concerto. This last work represents Delius at his most inspired; it is warmly evocative as well as strong and memorable. The soloists are able to showcase their abilities in music that is both passionate and inspired. Sir Andrew Davis, who is proving to be a notable Delius interpreter, conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra. This is the Chandos 'Disc of the Month'.

CHSA 5095 – Herrmann: Moby Dick / Sinfonietta

Bernard Herrmann is best known today as the composer of such films as Orson Welles's *Citizen Kane*, and Hitchcock's *Vertigo* and *Psycho*. But despite his strong ties to Hollywood, Herrmann always thought of himself as a composer who worked in film, and not as a 'mere' film composer. It was during his years as conductor and composer with the CBS Symphony Orchestra that he felt inspired to compose the cantata *Moby Dick*. It was completed in 1938 and premiered by Sir John Barbirolli and the New York Philharmonic. The disc also includes the premiere recording of the Sinfonietta for strings in its original version of 1935 – 36, inspired by the works of Schoenberg. Herrmann drew on the music of the Sinfonietta for the score of *Psycho*. The Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus are conducted by their former Principal Guest Conductor Michael Schønwandt, with Richard Edgar-Wilson and David Wilson-Johnson as soloists.



CHSA 5096 – On Christmas Night

The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge, directed by Andrew Nethsingha, presents a joyous musical celebration of Advent and Christmas. The disc includes original works by John Rutter, Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, Elizabeth Poston, and Kenneth Leighton as well as arrangements of popular songs and carols. It was recorded in the College Chapel in full surround-sound, which means that it not only sounds spectacular but recreates the wonderful experience of listening to the Choir perform in its home venue. *Classic FM* wrote of its recent compilation *Hear My Words*: 'The choir sings suavely and radiantly without resorting to cathedral prissiness.'