



ICMA 2021 - THE WINNERS

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL
WEDNESDAY 20 January 2021 14:00 CET**

Here is the list with the ICMA winners of the year 2021, as established by the Jury comprising the jury members from the following media:

**ANDANTE (Turkey) – CRESCENDO (Belgium) – DAS ORCHESTER (Germany) –
DEUTSCHE WELLE (Germany) – GRAMOFON (Hungary) – IMZ (Austria) –
MUSICAL LIFE (Russia) – MDR KULTUR (Germany) – MUSICA (Italy) – MUSIK
& THEATER (Switzerland) – OPERA (UK) – ORPHEUS RADIO (Russia) –
PIZZICATO (Luxembourg) – POLISH RADIO CHOPIN (Poland) – RADIO 100,7
(Luxembourg) – RADIO ROMANIA MUZICAL (Romania) – RESMUSICA (France)
– RONDO CLASSIC (Finland) – SCHERZO (Spain) – UNISON (Croatia)**

SPECIAL AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Edita Gruberova, soprano

One of the last true great opera divas, Edita Gruberova has triumphed on stages all over the world for over fifty years, showing the absolute perfection of her singing, the purity of her pitch and total adherence to the dramatic reasons of the characters in the Italian bel canto repertoire, in which she is undisputed queen — but we shouldn't forget the wit and the irony she has always displayed in German and Viennese operetta. A model of long-lasting career and dedication, Edita Gruberova is a model for any young singer wishing to follow her example.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Pablo Heras-Casado, conductor

In an already dazzling career, the Granada-born conductor Pablo Heras-Casado has shown great versatility in an unusually broad repertoire ranging from Renaissance music to contemporary creations. His collaborations with the world's most important orchestras and ensembles, as well as his numerous recordings, place the young Spanish maestro among the most solid values on the international scene.

YOUNG ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Can Cakmur, piano

After studies at Schola Cantorum in Paris and at the Liszt Academy of Weimar, as well as with Diane Andersen in Belgium, the young Turkish pianist Can Cakmur has just embarked into a promising worldwide career. Benefitting from a superb technique he is a sensitive and rhetoric musician. After having received an ICMA Award in the Solo Instrument category last year, he is getting ICMA's Young Artist of the Year Award this year, which is also unique in our awards' history.

DISCOVERY AWARD

Maya Wichert, violin

The young German violinist Maya Wichert has already won many coveted prizes. A successful soloist at her young age, she also loves to play chamber music. She convinced the ICMA Jury with her fine technique and a much nuanced, deeply musical playing.

LABEL OF THE YEAR

Berliner Philharmoniker Recordings

Focussing on large cycles, Berliner Philharmoniker Recordings are distinguished by their sophisticated presentation in luxurious boxes with audio recordings in high-resolution quality and, often, also video recordings. They come with exhaustive documentation about the recordings, the performers and the music, making each release a desirable collector's item.

ORCHESTRA AWARD

Marc Bouchkov, violin

The Franco-Belgian violinist Marc Bouchkov is a complete musician, equally at ease in recitals and chamber music as he is as a soloist with symphony orchestras. His flexibility in different styles makes him one of the most eminent soloists of our time.

Kian Soltani, cello

Kian Soltani has established himself as one of the most eagerly awaited young cellists of our time. Winner of the most prestigious competitions dedicated to his instrument, he already performs with the world's leading orchestras and he recorded already with great musicians such as Daniel Barenboim and Renaud Capuçon.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Drazen Domjanic

As a cultural manager and founder of the International Music Academy in Liechtenstein, the chamber orchestra Esperanza and several international music festivals, Drazen Domjanic proved a tireless and highly successful promoter of young talents. Under his utterly dynamic and inspired guidance, the Music Academy in Liechtenstein has developed into a breeding ground for internationally successful young musicians who constantly enrich the international musical life.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ingolf Turban, violin

Ingolf Turban is one of the most recorded violinists of our time. In a very broad and often rarely played repertoire his interpretations are lauded for their technical accomplishment and highly communicative quality. A virtuoso performer, he is also a renowned teacher, eager to share his skills with the younger generation, notably at the International Music Academy in Liechtenstein.

AUDIO AND VIDEO CATEGORIES

EARLY MUSIC

Bonefont - Bruck - Gombert - Kerle - Lassus

Huelgas Ensemble, Paul van Nevel

Cyprès

CYP1682

A living legend of early music, Paul Van Nevel together with his Huelgas Ensemble help us rediscover the scores of Simone de Bonifont, a major release published by the Belgian label Cyprès.

BAROQUE INSTRUMENTAL

Giuseppe Tartini: Violin Concertos

Chouchane Siranossian

Venice Baroque Orchestra, Andrea Marcon

Alpha

596

Being a versatile musician, Chouchane Siranossian has achieved considerable success both in the standard classical repertoire and baroque music. This Tartini CD is a wonderful proof of both Siranossian's distinguished artistry and Tartini's great but still underrated music for violin and orchestra. With her trademark virtuosity, Siranossian excels in the outer movements of all the concertos on the recording and equally fills the inner movements with immense lyricism. Chouchane Siranossian's playing is characterized by great naturalness – a quality that has become very rare among modern baroque violinists – without ever degenerating into casualness. Andrea Marcon and the Venice Baroque Orchestra are very inspired partners for the soloist, providing a supple and expressive accompaniment.

ex-aequo

The Berlin Album

Benda - Graun - Janitsch - Kirnberger - von Preußen - Schulz

Ensemble Diderot, Johannes Pramsohler

Audax

ADX13726

With The Berlin Album, the violinist Johannes Pramsohler and his high-profile Ensemble Diderot continue their metropolis series. After focussing on composers from Dresden, Paris and London, they take a look here at Trio Sonatas by such masters as Graun, Kirnberger, Benda or Schulz. Their interpretations harmoniously combine poetry, reflection and virtuosity, and captivate with their wide palette of colours and shades. These intimate performances emphasise the music's melodic beauty.

BAROQUE VOCAL

La Francesina, Handel's Nightingale

Sophie Junker

Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu, Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Aparté

AP233

Élisabeth Du Parc was a French singer who became a sort of muse to Handel during his last years in London: on this Aparté CD, the Belgian soprano Sophie Junker astounds with the skill with which she delivers a very virtuosic vocal writing, thanks to total mastery of languages - Italian and English - and the ability to make every technical device an expressive factor. All in all, one of the finest examples of baroque singing in recent years.

VOCAL MUSIC

Anima Rara

Catalani - Giordano - Leoncavallo - Mascagni - Massenet - Puccini

Ermonela Jaho

Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana, Andrea Battistoni

Opera Rara

ORR253

The superb Albanian soprano Ermonela Jaho shows great dramatic artistry. Her charisma and ability to trigger goosebumps and emotional sympathy in the listener distinguishes her outstanding singing, which benefits from a very characteristic and recognisable timbre. Her consistently warm and powerful voice is projected evenly over the whole range of the soprano registers and is capable of all the necessary dynamic and colourful nuances required.

CHORAL MUSIC

Igor Kuljeric: Glagolitic Requiem

Jakov Gotovac: Himna Slobodi

Kristina Kolar, Eric Laporte, Annika Schlicht, Ljubomir Puskaric, Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Ivan Repusic

BR Klassik

900331

The Glagolitic Requiem by the Croatian composer and conductor Igor Kuljeric marries Glagolitic melismas with the architecture and form of the Latin Requiem. The recording allows us not only to discover a truly outstanding work but also to hear this music in a sensitive, gripping interpretation. The conductor Ivan Repusic is well supported by good soloists, the excellent choir of the Bavarian Radio and the very committed Munich Radio Orchestra.

OPERA

Camille Saint-Saëns: Le Timbre d'Argent

Hélène Guilmette, Jodie Devos, Edgaras Montvidas, Yu Shao, Tassis Christoyannis

Jean-Yves Ravoux, Matthieu Chapuis

Accentus, Les Siècles, François-Xavier Roth

Bru Zane

BZ1041

The Bru Zane label offers us a formidable rediscovery, Le Timbre d'Argent by Camille Saint-Saëns. The opera begins with a 12-minute long, dramatic and musically very attractive overture and contains wonderful arias, scenes and choruses, which are shown to their best advantage in the gripping, lively interpretation by Xavier-François Roth at the helm of his own deeply committed orchestra Les Siècles. The cast is exceptional and among the singers is Jodie Devos, Young Artist 2015 of the International Classical Music Awards.

SOLO INSTRUMENT

Maurice Ravel: La Valse, Miroirs - Igor Stravinsky: The Firebird, Petrushka

Beatrice Rana

Warner Classics

9029541109

After winning the prestigious Montréal Piano Competition at only 18 years of age, the pianist Beatrice Rana made her way into the inner circle of the great international names of the instrument. Probably the finest Italian piano talent since Maurizio

Pollini, in this recording dedicated to Ravel and Stravinsky she impresses not only with her dazzling virtuosity but also with her maturity in a repertoire that is so well known and yet so difficult to deliver convincingly.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Fantastique

Fauré: Violin Sonata No. 1 - Debussy: Violin Sonata - Ravel: Violin Sonata No. 2 -
Poulenc: Violin Sonata

Franziska Pietsch, Josu de Solaun

Audite

97751

From La Belle Époque to the years of World War II, the violin sonatas on this CD reflect the moods and whims of fast-changing times. Franziska Pietsch and Josu de Solaun explore the undercurrents of Fauré's bitter-sweet romanticism, let Ravel's colours sparkle, and enjoy their ride through Poulenc's frenzy. They bring a fresh sense of boldness and eloquence to well-known pieces.

CONCERTOS

Dmitri Shostakovich: Cello Concertos Nos. 1 & 2

Alban Gerhardt, WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, Jukka-Pekka Saraste

Hyperion

CDA68340

Shostakovich's existentially drawn concertos rank among the great challenges even for veteran cellists. Gerhardt's expressive readings combine masterful playing with tone that ranges from the feverish to the roughened, the slim and sometimes sharp-edged. Without eccentric gestures, his fluent, colourful playing bring rarely heard intensity to the composer's dark-shaded soundworld.

SYMPHONIC MUSIC

Beethoven: Symphonies Nos. 7 & 9 - Tchaikovsky: Symphonies Nos. 5 & 6 - Franz
Schmidt: Symphony No. 4 - Stephan: Music for Orchestra

Marlis Petersen, Elisabeth Kulman, Benjamin Bruns, Kwangchul Youn,

Rundfunkchor Berlin, Berliner Philharmoniker, Kirill Petrenko

Berliner Philharmoniker Recordings

BPHR20035

In a phenomenal performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Kirill Petrenko fights, so to speak, for every note, for every phrase, illuminating the work completely. The Ninth pulsates with incredibly sonorous rhetoric, the apotheosis being a twenty-one and a half minute long state of happiness and joy.

Petrenko's account of Franz Schmidt's Fourth is very emotional and gripping, and that of Tchaikovsky's Fifth is dramatic and expressive. Rudi Stephan's grandiose Music for Orchestra is intense, spirited and colourful, yet equally imbued with refined transparency.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Thomas Adès: Powder Her Face, Berceuse, Mazurkas, In Seven Days

Kirill Gerstein, Tanglewood Music Centre Orchestra, Thomas Adès

Myrios

MYR027

It has long been known: in these difficult times for the art of composition, Thomas Adès has found his own, eclectic language, creating music that is both attractive in

sound and full of meaning. This programme combines the different aspects of his creative nature, evoking Schubert and tango, the salon elegance of mazurkas (though translated into a contemporary language), and the flickering of stars. This unusual set, enriched by the brilliant pianist Kirill Gerstein and musicians of the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, is a most glamorous showcase for the work of this English composer and of contemporary music in general.

ASSORTED PROGRAMS

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4, Coriolan Overture,
The Creatures of Prometheus Overture
Kristian Bezuidenhout, Freiburger Barockorchester, Pablo Heras-Casado
Harmonia Mundi

HMM 902413

Kristian Bezuidenhout brings joy, finesse and lyricism to this often-recorded piece of Beethoven, and his interpretation is so fresh and sounds so authentic that one can't help feeling that the listener is being beamed up to the Vienna of Beethoven's era. The sound of the fortepiano is so sweet, and the brilliant recording of both the piano and orchestra do justice to the beauty of the pieces. The orchestra under the baton of Pablo Heras-Casado is very receptive, energetic and dynamic, and proves itself to be a first-rate authentic ensemble.

BEST COLLECTION

Dmitrij Kitajenko Collection
Bernstein - Butsko - Flyarkovsky - Gabeli - Kabalevsky - Khachaturian -
Rachmaninov - Rimsky-Korsakov - R. Strauss - Theodorakis - Yanchenko
Various soloists, Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music
Theatre Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra
Dmitrij Kitajenko

Melodiya

MELCD1002645

Dmitri Kitajenko has shown himself to be a conductor of incredible charisma from the very beginning of his career, able to put any work under an intense spotlight and to spur any orchestra on to heights of achievement. Moreover, this box is a veritable treasure trove of wonderful music that reflects the vastness of Kitajenko's repertoire and also his determination to bring Western contemporary music to the former Soviet Union.

HISTORICAL RECORDINGS

Live in Moscow 1951-1963
Dmitri Shostakovich: 24 Preludes and Fugues op. 87
Svjatoslav Richter, Emil Gilels, Tatiana Nikolayeva, Dmitri Shostakovich
Profil

PH 20054

Nobody plays Shostakovich like Shostakovich - obviously. But then, there's Emil Gilels and his unique view on Shostakovich's 24 Preludes and Fugues, as well as Tatiana Nikolayeva, who performed their premiere. And, of course, Svjatoslav Richter with his much-loved interpretations. This CD box brings them all together and reminds the Shostakovich-loving audience that there's nothing like authenticity.

VIDEO PERFORMANCE

Rachmaninov: Piano concerto No. 3 + Etude-Tableau + Vocalise + Symphony No. 3
Denis Matsuev, Lucerne Festival Orchestra, Riccardo Chailly
Accentus Music

ACC20487

In this live recording of Rachmaninov's 3rd Piano Concerto, Denis Matsuev's playing is both soulful and brilliant. Riccardo Chailly's reading is detailed and extremely colourful. Rachmaninov's Third Symphony, though composed on Lake Lucerne, is deeply Russian, and Chailly expresses this well. He does not seek the spectacular or the racy elegance in Rachmaninov's music, but rather emphasises sonority, orchestral colour and transparency, so that the individual movements of the symphony present themselves like a lush bouquet. But what ultimately really distinguishes this performance is the magnificent, phenomenal playing of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra.

ex-aequo

Thomas: Hamlet

Stéphane Degout, Sabine Devieille, Laurent Alvaro, Sylvie Brunet-Grupposo,
Nicolas Legoux, Julien Behr, Jérôme Varnier, Yoann Dubruque, Kevin Amiel
Chœur Les Éléments, Orchestre des Champs-Élysées,

Louis Langrée, conductor

Cyril Teste, stage director

Naxos

2.11064 & NBD0103V

Unjustly labelled by Debussy's famous joke ("I know three kinds of music: the good, the bad and Thomas's"), the French composer's music returns to the stage with a production of his masterpiece, Hamlet, which fascinated the audience thanks to Louis Langrée's sensitive conducting, Cyril Teste's intelligently modern direction and, above all, the magnificent singing and theatrical intensity of Stéphane Degout and Sabine Devieille: a real redemption for poor Ambroise Thomas!

VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES

Lucas Debargue – To Music

A film by Martin Mirabel

Naxos

2.110639 & NBD0101V

In this documentary category about Lucas Debargue, shot and directed by the pianist's contemporary Martin Mirabel, the camera follows the young musician during concerts, recordings and even walks, capturing his original and paradoxical judgments about art, revealing his complete immersion in what makes up the meaning of his life. The jury appreciates both the stylishly-made visual component of the film and the special way of filming, which combines a news-reel manner with great focus on the details. It reveals the creative personality of an artist who may become one of the greatest musicians of the 21st century.