

GRAMOPHONE

CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS 2023

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Gramophone reveals top three recordings in 11 categories for the Gramophone Classical Music Awards 2023

- 33 recordings now compete to win their category as well as to be named **Recording of the Year**
- Winners to be announced at star-studded ceremony on Wednesday October 4 at London's De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, alongside special awards including **Artist of the Year** and **Lifetime Achievement**, in the year that *Gramophone* celebrates its centenary

Gramophone today [September 8, 2023] reveals the top three recordings in each category of the **Gramophone Classical Music Awards 2023**. Widely regarded as the Oscars of classical music, the Awards celebrate exceptional recordings of the past year and acknowledge artists, ensembles and record labels that have made outstanding contributions to the classical recording industry.

Six nominated recordings in each category were revealed in *Gramophone's* [special digital magazine](#) on September 1. Now the field has been narrowed to a shortlist of three, one of which will be chosen to be the winner in each of the 11 categories which will be announced on October 4. A single album among those winners will go on to win the coveted **Recording of the Year**.

Having won last year's **Voice and Ensemble** category for his *Bari-Tenor* album, **Michael Spyres** is nominated once more with his latest album *Contra-Tenor* with **Il Pomo d'Oro**, up against **Véronique Gens** and **Sandrine Piau's** *Rivales* with **Le Concert de la Loge** and **Lisette Oropesa's** *French Bel Canto Arias* with the **Dresdner Philharmonie**. Spyres and Gens also feature on another nominated album, this time in the **Choral** category – the **Choeur et Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire's** recording of Ravel's *Cantates pour Le Prix de Rome*, up against the **Latvian Radio Choir's** recording of works by John Cage and **Concerto Italiano's** recording of Monteverdi's Seventh Book of Madrigals.

Two of this year's **Orchestra of the Year** nominees are also celebrated in the **Orchestral** category, with the **Berliner Philharmoniker's** recording of Langgaard's Symphony No 1 competing with the **Danish National Symphony Orchestra's** interpretation of Nielsen's Symphonies Nos 4 and 5; the category is completed by **Sinfonia of London's** album *Music for Strings*, featuring works by Delius, Elgar, Howells and Vaughan Williams. The **Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra** – another **Orchestra of the Year** nominee – is acknowledged in the **Contemporary** category for its recording of works by **Lotta Wennäkoski** under conductor Nicholas Collon, as well as the BBC Symphony Orchestra's recording of **Richard Causton's** *La Terra Impareggiabile* with Marcus Farnsworth and Huw Watkins under Sakari Oramo and Red Note Ensemble's recording of **James Dillon's** *Emblemata*.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra earns another nomination in the **Concerto** category, featuring on **Timothy Ridout's** recording of Elgar's 'Viola Concerto' and Bloch's Suite for Viola and Orchestra under conductor **Martyn Brabbins**. Other nominations in that category include **Mahan Esfahani's** album of harpsichord concertos by Kalabis, Krása and Martinů with the **Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra** under **Alexander Liebreich** and **Cédric Tiberghien's** recording of Ravel's piano concertos with **Les Siècles** and **François-Xavier Roth**.

Gramophone's 2018 Artist of the Year **Rachel Podger** is nominated in the **Instrumental** category for her album *Tutta Solo*, competing with **Benjamin Alard's** seventh volume of complete works for keyboard by Bach and **Nurit Stark's** album of works for violin and viola by Bartók, Ligeti, Veress and Eötvös. **Leif Ove Andsnes** – the recipient of last year's Special Achievement Award – is nominated in the **Piano** category for his recording of Dvořák's *Tone Pictures*, alongside **Krystian Zimerman's** interpretations of piano works by Szymanowski and **Marc-André Hamelin's** recording of the complete rags from William Bolcom.

Edward Gardner and the **London Philharmonic Orchestra's** recording of Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* on the LPO's own label – the first commercially available recording of the work in over 50 years – is nominated in the **Opera** category, alongside **Sir Antonio Pappano** and **Orchestra e Coro dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia's** studio recording of Puccini's *Turandot* on Warner Classics. **Marc Minkowski** and **Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine's** recording of Meyerbeer's *Robert Le Diable* on the Bru Zane label completes the Opera shortlist.

The **Danish Quartet's** album *Prism IV*, featuring works by Bach, Beethoven and Mendelssohn, is shortlisted in the **Chamber** category with **Quatuor Ebène** and **Antoine Tamestit's** recording of Mozart's String Quintets, K515 and K516 and **Gringolts Quartet's** album of Schoenberg's String Quartets Nos 1 and 3.

In a year that marks the 400th anniversary of William Byrd's death, **The Sixteen's** recording of the composer's psalms, songs and sonnets of 1611 is nominated in the **Early Music** category with **Huelgas Ensemble's** album of Ludwig Daser's Polyphonic Masses and **Les Arts Florissants'** recording of Gesualdo's Fifth and Sixth Books of Madrigals.

The complete songs of Duparc on Signum featuring **Dame Sarah Connolly, Nicky Spence, Huw Montague Rendall, William Thomas** and **Malcolm Martineau** earns a nomination in the **Song** category, alongside **Cyrille Dubois** and **Tristan Raës'** complete songs of Fauré on Aparté and **Andrè Schuen** and **Daniel Heide's** recording of Schubert's *Schwanengesang* on Deutsche Grammophon.

The full shortlist can be found below.

The winners will be announced at a glittering awards ceremony on **Wednesday October 4** at London's De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, in the year that *Gramophone* celebrates its centenary. Other awards to be announced on the night include **Artist of the Year** (sponsored by Raymond Weil), **Young Artist of the Year** (sponsored by Classic FM), **Lifetime Achievement** (sponsored by the Global Foundation for the Performing Arts), **Label of the Year** (sponsored by Stagecast), **Concept Album** (in partnership with Nordoff and Robbins), **Spatial Audio** and **Orchestra of the Year** (both in association with Apple Music Classical). The **Orchestra of the Year** is the only award to be decided by public vote. Featuring performances from the **London Mozart Players** as well as Award winners past and present, highlights of the ceremony will be streamed on medici.tv and on Classic FM and *Gramophone's* website from Sunday October 8 at 7pm (BST). The stream is sponsored by **IMG Artists**.

James Jolly, Editor-in-Chief of *Gramophone*, said: "Another wonderful year of recordings shows that despite the hiatus caused by the pandemic, creativity and superb artistry has continued to thrive. This year, music of the 20th century is particularly well represented, with repertoire both familiar and less so making for some incredibly rich categories. We look forward to revealing the results of our summer's listening at the ceremony on October 4, and thereafter on Medici TV, and on both Classic FM and *Gramophone's* websites."

FULL SHORTLIST

CHAMBER (sponsored by Wigmore Hall)

- **Bach. Beethoven. Mendelssohn** 'Prism IV'
Danish Quartet (ECM New Series)
- **Mozart** String Quintets, K515 & K516
Quatuor Ebène; Antoine Tamestit (Erato)
- **Schoenberg** String Quartets Nos 1 & 3, Opp 7 & 30
Gringolts Quartet (BIS)

CHORAL

- **Cage** Choral Works
Latvian Radio Choir; Sigvards Klava (Ondine)
- **Monteverdi** Madrigals Book 7
Concerto Italiano; Rinaldo Alessandrini (Naïve)
- **Ravel** Cantates pour Le Prix de Rome
Soloists; Choeur et Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire; Pascal Rophé (BIS)

CONCERTO (sponsored by Musicians' Union)

- **Elgar** Viola Concerto **Bloch** Suite For Viola and Orchestra
Timothy Ridout; BBC Symphony Orchestra; Martyn Brabbins (Harmonia Mundi)
- **Kalabis. Krása. Martinů** Harpsichord Concertos
Mahan Esfahani; Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra; Alexander Liebreich (Hyperion)
- **Ravel** Piano Concertos
Cédric Tiberghien; Les Siècles; François-Xavier Roth (Harmonia Mundi)

CONTEMPORARY (sponsored by PPL & PRS for Music)

- **Causton** La Terra Impareggiabile
Marcus Farnsworth; Huw Watkins; BBC Symphony Orchestra; Sakari Oramo (NMC)
- **Dillon** Emblemata
Red Note Ensemble; Geoffrey Paterson (Delphian)
- **Wennäkoski** Sigla. Flounce. Sedecim
Sivan Magan; Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra; Nicholas Collon (Ondine)

EARLY MUSIC

- **Byrd** Psalmes, Songs and Sonnets of 1611
The Sixteen (Coro)

- **Daser** Polyphonic Masses
Huelgas Ensemble; Paul Van Nevel (DHM)
- **Gesualdo** Madrigali, Books 5 & 6
Les Arts Florissants; Paul Agnew (Harmonia Mundi)

INSTRUMENTAL

- **Bach** The Complete Works for Keyboard, Vol. 7
Benjamin Alard (Harmonia Mundi)
- **Bartók. Ligeti. Veress. Eötvös.**
Nurit Stark (BIS)
- **'Tutta Sola'**
Rachel Podger (Channel Classics)

OPERA (sponsored by Mascarade Opera)

- **Meyerbeer** Robert Le Diable
Soloists; Chœur de l'Opera National de Bordeaux; Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine / Marc Minkowski (Bru Zane)
- **Puccini** Turandot
Soloists; Orchestra e Coro dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; Sir Antonio Pappano (Warner Classics)
- **Tippett** The Midsummer Marriage
Soloists; London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir; Edward Gardner (LPO)

ORCHESTRAL (sponsored by Lark Music Insurance)

- **Langgaard** Symphony No 1. Cliffside Pastorals
Berliner Philharmoniker; Sakari Oramo (Dacapo)
- **Nielsen** Symphonies Nos 4 & 5
Danish National Symphony Orchestra; Fabio Luisi (Deutsche Grammophon)
- **'Music for Strings'** Delius. Elgar. Howells. Vaughan Williams
Sinfonia of London; John Wilson (Chandos)

PIANO (sponsored by Yamaha)

- **Bolcom** The Complete Rags
Marc-André Hamelin (Hyperion)
- **Dvořák** Tone Pictures, Op 85
Leif Ove Andsnes (Sony Classical)
- **Szymanowski** Piano Works
Krystian Zimerman (Deutsche Grammophon)

SONG (sponsored by Anderson Financial)

- **Duparc** Complete Songs
Sarah Connolly; Nicky Spence; Huw Montague Rendall; William Thomas; Malcolm Martineau (Signum)

- **Fauré** Complete Songs
Cyrille Dubois; Tristan Raës (Aparté)
- **Schubert** Schwanengesang
Andrè Schuen; Daniel Heide (Deutsche Grammophon)

VOICE & ENSEMBLE (sponsored by medici.tv)

- **'Contra-Tenor'**
Michael Spyres; Il Pomo d'Oro; Francesco Corti (Erato)
- **'French Bel Canto Arias'**
Lisette Oropesa; Sächsischer Staatsoperchor; Dresdner Philharmonie; Corrado Rovaris (Pentatone)
- **'Rivales'**
Véronique Gens; Sandrine Piau; Le Concert de la Loge; Julien Chauvin (Alpha)

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<https://www.gramophone.co.uk/awards/gramophone-classical-music-awards-2023>

Notes to Editors

Please find a selection of images from the 2022 Gramophone Classical Music Awards [here](#).

About the Gramophone Classical Music Awards

The annual Gramophone Classical Music Awards, the world's most influential classical recorded-music prizes, were launched in 1977 by *Gramophone* magazine (founded in 1923 by Sir Compton Mackenzie, with this year marking its centenary). The Awards celebrate their 46th anniversary this year. Available internationally, *Gramophone* publishes a bespoke edition of the magazine for North America. *Gramophone's* full, searchable archive of magazines from 1923 to the latest issue is

available digitally for iPad and other tablet devices, smartphone or computer. *Gramophone's* weekly podcasts have recently passed their 750,000th download.