

The Best of 2017

OF THE HUNDREDS of recordings we reviewed last year – new works, forgotten works, familiar classics and themed recitals—these are the ones that all opera fans will want to hear.

For links to the full reviews, visit operanews.com/bestof2017

10 BEST IN OPERA

1.

**SCHÖNBERG:
MOSES UNO ARON**
DVD (Orchestra of the Paris Opera, Jordan. BelAir Classiques)
“Austerely handsome. The adeptness of the cast and instrumentalists would have been unimaginable when it was composed.” -Fred Cohn

2.

FLOYD: SUSANNAH
DVD (St. Petersburg Opera Orchestra, Sforzini. Naxos)
“Now is an opportune moment for Susannah’s first DVD release, to remind us of the opera’s virtues and its surprisingly relevant themes.” -Joshua Rosenblum

3.

GLASS: EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH
DVD (The Philip Glass Ensemble, Riesman. Opus Arte)
“The ultimate Wagnerian Gesamtkunstwerk—a total synthesis of art forms.” -Joe Cadagin

4.

GIORDANO: ANDREA CHÉNIER
DVD (Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Pappano. Warner Classics)
“This opera is finally accorded its due! This mounting offers good singers and a good conductor.” -Patrick Dillon

5.

PUCCINI: LA BOHÈME
DVD (Malmo Opera Orchestra, Badea. Naxos)
“This modern-dress production features youthful, fresh-voiced singers who are also superb actors.” -Henson Keys

6.

WAGNER: DIE WALKÜRE
CD (Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, van Zweden. Naxos)
“The sense of proportion that the conductor brings carries through the entire release. And Matthias Goerne is a revelation.” -Fred Cohn

7.

MOZART: DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE
DVD (Accademia Teatro alla Scala Orchestra, A. Fischer. C Major)
“Like all good Flute directors, Peter Stein takes the opera seriously. But I don’t mean to underplay the sheer charm of his staging.” -Patrick Dillon

8.

BERG: WOZZECK
DVD (Zurich Philharmonia, Luisi. Accentus)
“One of the best-sung Wozzeck recordings. Fabio Luisi’s conducting is elegant. Everything here demonstrates that this is a truly great opera” -William R. Braun

9.

PUCCINI: MANON LESCAUT
CD (Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Konzertvereinigung Wiener Staatsoper, M. Armiliato. Deutsche Grammophon)
“Anna Netrebko’s work is theatrically charged at every moment, and her portrayal of Puccini’s heroine is completely convincing.” -Fred Cohn

10.

**SCHÖNBERG:
PIERROT LUNAIRE**
CD (Ensemble Bies, Vitello. Continuo)
“This umpteenth Pierrot release is a revelation. The reciter, Anna Clementi, a true actress, goes far beyond the written score.” -William R. Braun

