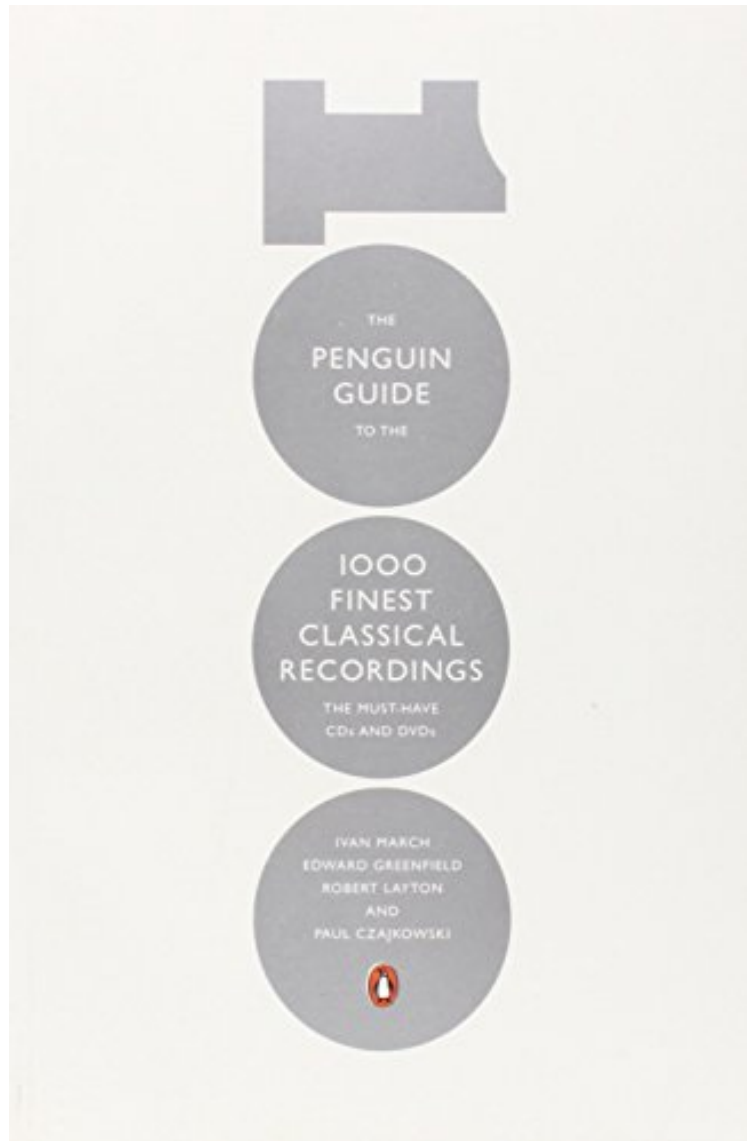


(Mobile book) The Penguin Guide to the 1000 Finest Classical Recordings: The Must-Have CDs and DVDs

The Penguin Guide to the 1000 Finest Classical Recordings: The Must-Have CDs and DVDs

Ivan March, Edward Greenfield, Robert Layton, Paul Czajkowski

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#940201 in Books Alfred Music 2011-10-12 2011-10-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.20 x 1.00 x 6.10l, 1.54 #File Name: 0241955947464 pagesThe Penguin Guide to the 1000 Finest Classical Recordings The Must Have CDs and DVDs | File size: 49.Mb

Ivan March, Edward Greenfield, Robert Layton, Paul Czajkowski : The Penguin Guide to the 1000 Finest Classical Recordings: The Must-Have CDs and DVDs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Penguin Guide to the 1000 Finest Classical Recordings: The Must-Have CDs and DVDs:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Of interest but not a mandatory reference
By Phil (not) in Magnolia
I purchased this guide with some hesitation, knowing that it took a different approach to the selection of classical recordings included compared to Penguin's traditional annual compilation. The contents are of interest as a supplement to my other resources but I would not consider this to be a useful stand-alone reference. And in fact Penguin had been fighting a losing battle for some time, leading up to this publication in 2011. Their annual guides were becoming very large, not really unwieldy but awkward to use. Those of us who did (and still do) consider them a valuable reference were less concerned about the size of the volume as we were with the contents and the relative completeness. The annual challenge regarding what to add and what to remove, and how different we should expect the guide to be from one year to another were all things that every user had their own opinion on. Finally Penguin seems to have decided that the annual guide was impractical to update on that basis, and with this '1000 Finest' guide they tried to offer something different but still (hopefully) useful. For my own reference I continue to use *The Penguin Guide to Recorded Classical Music 2008*, which I consider to be recent enough for regular use in combination with the other resources available on the web.

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Great Expectations, Big Frustration
By Joo Evoluo
As soon as I've pre-ordered this guide I remained curious and anxious until the item was delivered to my home some months later. However, after receiving it, I could not believe in what I was reading: a very British centered guide. Just some examples among the finest classical recordings listed: 15 entries for Elgar; 15 for Britten; 14 for Walton; 8 for Vaughan Williams; 8 for Bridge; 5 for Rutter; 4 for Holst; 4 for Bowen; 4 for Bliss; 4 for Rawsthorne; 4 for Tippett; 3 for Bax; 3 for Dyson; were also mentioned recordings from Alwyn, Ferguson, Butterworth, Mathias, as well as from many many other british composers that I will not list here. And believe it or not: 5 pages dedicated to Percy Grainger with dozen of recordings suggested (more pages than even Schumann recordings have received!). But this is absolutely not the major problem... The big issue is that the following non-british composers, to name a few, did not deserve a single entry: Machaut, Delalande, Granados, Glass, Reich, Agricola, Berio, Ligeti, Feldman, Carter, Dufay, Gabrieli, Gubaidulina, Janequin, Kagel, Lassus, Mascagni, Nono, Rodrigo, Saariaho. Santoro, Schnittke, Takemitsu, Weiss, etc. An additional sad note: none of Glenn Gould's Goldberg Variation recordings deserved an entry... Briefly, the problem of this guide is the following: a "martian" reading it would conclude that, after the invincible Germans geniuses, the British composers are by far the most important ones in the history of the classical music... Shame on You, Penguin!

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Only if you have all the other guides
By Diogenes
This book is of some minor interest after you have looked through all the more comprehensive guides (Grammophone, AllMusic, Third Ear, or of course, the earlier, much more complete Penguin Guides). But do not, under any circumstances, make this your first or main guide, especially if you are just getting started in classical music and want help in finding your way around. There are only a small number of reviews here, in part because only one review is given for each musical work, i.e. the editors' choice. And worse yet, rather than include a comprehensive selection of major works for a given composer, this new Penguin Guide just lists a few compositions, choosing instead to include works from a vast number of relatively obscure composers, often at the expense of more important figures who are omitted altogether. For example, the towering figure of Gaspard Le Roux is included, while Gyorgy Ligeti, one of the most important composers of the twentieth century, is totally omitted. Of the former, the "Guide" itself says: "Little is known about Gaspard Le Roux except that his music was actually published. . . ." This one sentence alone makes it clear that the Monty Python crew didn't have to look very far for material in the British Isles!

A stunning work of research and imagination that sheds new light of the ancient world. This completely new edition of *The Penguin Guide to the 1000 Finest Classical Recordings* reviews the best classical albums issued and reissued over the past five decades, many of which dominate the catalog because of their sheer excellence, irrespective of recording dates. More comprehensive than ever before, it indicates key recordings on CD, DVD, and enhanced SACD, including those in surround sound. If you want the finest available version of any major classical album, you will find it listed and assessed in these pages.

The best, the biggest and the most comprehensive [Praise for *The Penguin Guide to Recorded Classical Music 2010*] *
Independent *About the Author
Ivan March is a well-known lecturer, journalist, and writer in the world of recorded music. Edward Greenfield was on the staff of *The Guardian* (London) for forty years and is a regular BBC broadcaster. Robert Layton is a journalist. Paul Czajkowski is a journalist