

ICMA 2024 THE WINNERS

Here is the list with the ICMA winners of the year 2022, as established by the Jury comprising the jury members from the following media: **ANDANTE (Turkey) – CRESCENDO (Belgium) – DAS ORCHESTER (Germany) – DEUTSCHE WELLE (Germany) – IMZ (Austria) – MDR KLASSIK (Germany) – MUSICA (Italy) – MUSIK & THEATER (Switzerland) – OPERA (UK) – PAPAGENO (Hungary) – PIZZICATO (Luxembourg) – POLSKIE RADIO CHOPIN (Poland) – RADIO 100,7 (Luxembourg) – RADIO KLASSIK STEPHANSDOM - RADIO ROMANIA MUZICAL (Romania) – RESMUSICA (France) – RONDO CLASSIC (Finland) – SCHERZO (Spain) – UNISON (Croatia)**

SPECIAL AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Pekinels

Güher und Süher Pekinel, piano

With their extraordinary poetic understanding, Güher and Süher Pekinel sisters have always garnered high attention in the classical music scene. Their quest for perfectionism is simply legendary. Through their recitals and concert programs they have been very active in presenting the duo repertoire. Their collaboration with the biggest names of the classical music world has enriched the recording catalogues. The Pekinels are the only duo to play without eye contact, focusing intensely on the depth of their musical breathing.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Renaud Capuçon, violin

Violinist and conductor, an artist committed to civil and social causes, Renaud Capuçon is certainly one of the greatest living musicians: the 48-year-old Frenchman has played with all the best orchestras, the most important conductors and the most prestigious colleagues and is artistic director of music festivals. His discography, exceptional in its breadth and quality, confirms his stature as a musician, linked to the French school but classifiable under a single label: one of the greats.

YOUNG ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Aida Pascu, soprano

The young Romanian soprano Aida Pascu, 24 years old, surprises with her beautiful lirico-spinto, dark voice, convincing and mature, and a great stage presence, with all she needs to become an accomplished opera star. Trained at the University of Music in Bucharest, attending also masterclasses with Raina Kabaivanska and Nelly Miricioiu, Aida gained numerous national and international prizes for young opera singers; in 2023, she performed as Mimì in *La Bohème* at Teatro Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and the Romanian National Opera in Bucharest, with spectacular success.

DISCOVERY AWARD

Lana Zorjan, violin

Born in 2008, the young Serbian violinist Lana Zorjan can already point to national and international awards and is experienced on the stage with around 300 concert appearances. Her noticeably natural handling of the violin is also evident in highly virtuosic passages. She conveys musical personality and has the gift of transferring her joy of making music to the audience.

COMPOSER AWARD

Orazio Sciortino

Pianist, conductor and composer, the Sicilian musician Orazio Sciortino combines a thorough knowledge of tradition with an open spirit, which is reflected in musical writing free of constraints, open to the suggestions of modernity, yet always strongly personal and recognisable: his catalogue, in short, reflects the ideal figure of a 21st century composer, whose talent transcends the ideological constraints of the past.

ICMA CLASSEEK AWARD

Cassie Martin, guitar

Classical guitarist Cassie Martin is successful already in solo recitals, chamber music and as a soloist with orchestra and thus a very versatile musician. Her beautiful poetic sound, her flawless technique and her engaging personality are absolutely fabulous!

LABEL OF THE YEAR

Bru Zane

“Palazzetto Bru Zane - Centre de musique romantique française” is a foundation with a Venetian heart and a French soul. Since its inauguration in 2009, it has been researching and promoting the French musical heritage between 1780 and 1920. It is an unparalleled example of cultural patronage that has led to a series of concerts, books and recordings of sublime quality that have given new life to often forgotten works.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bruno Monsaingeon, musician and film director

Bruno Monsaingeon is the incarnation of classical music on screen. All his films and documentaries are sources of inspiration, allowing us to get up close and personal with so many great musicians. Bruno Monsaingeon's camera makes us vibrate like never before to the rhythm of music.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sylvain Cambreling, conductor

Sylvain Cambreling is an exceptional conductor because of the immensity of his repertoire. Whatever scores he conducts, he brings to them the highest standards. The Jury of the ICMA also salutes his total and inspiring commitment to the music of our time, one of his areas of excellence.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

bruckner24 / The Complete Versions Edition

Bruckner Orchestra Linz

ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra

Markus Poschner

This complete set of editions of Bruckner's symphonies is an exceptional project because it questions our listening habits and musical tradition. It combines musicological research with artistic excellence, while bringing together Austria's leading musical institutions. In short, the sound of Bruckner, yet innovative too.

AUDIO & VIDEO AWARDS

EARLY MUSIC

Oriente Lux

Orpheus 21, Hespèrion XXI

Jordi Savall

Alia Vox

AVSA9954

Medieval music from Europe and traditional songs from the Far and Middle East not only meet on this marvellous double CD, they develop a dialogue and thus bridge the gap between written

record and oral tradition. With this live recording, Jordi Savall and the ensembles Orpheus 21 and Hespèrion XXI work wonders by creating a unique and touching programme for a great variety of instruments.

BAROQUE INSTRUMENTAL

Sonate a quattro
Goldberg - Telemann - Händel - Fasch - Janitsch
Ensemble Diderot
Johannes Pramsohler

Audax
ADX11201

For more than fifteen years Ensemble Diderot has presented advanced and sometimes unheard programmes in a fresh artistic light. Their exegesis of Baroque repertoire shows original perspectives on historical performance practice. This is a discographic milestone.

BAROQUE VOCAL

Jouissons de Nos Beaux Ans!
De Bury - Dauvergne - Francoeur - Cassanéa de Mondonville - Rameau - Rebel – Royer
Cyrile Dubois, Orfeo Orchestra, Purcell Choir, György Vashegyi

Aparté
AP319

This is an excellent recital that opens a wide breach in our ignorance of the world of French XVIII^e opera, dominated by Rameau, but teeming with an astonishing number of quality composers. The tenor Cyrille Dubois puts on the wig of the haute-contre of the Louis XV era for all these arias with the greatest ease. His voice is as supple and ductile as ever, and he makes short work of the most dangerous vocal acrobatics in the upper register. The Orfeo Orchestra and the Purcell Choir conducted by György Vashegyi are also excellent. They give this Baroque anthology an energy to make the whole programme dance.

VOCAL MUSIC

Les Heures Claires
Nadia & Lili Boulanger: The Complete Songs
Lucile Richardot, Stéphane Degout, Emmanuelle Bertrand,
Anne de Fornel, Raquel Camarinha, Sarah Nemitan
Harmonia Mundi

HMM90235658

In a three-CD box set, Harmonia Mundi brings together all the mélodies composed by sisters Lili and Nadia Boulanger, plus carefully selected instrumental pieces. Thanks to excellent performances, we can reconstruct the separate fates of Lili, a talent who died young, and Nadia, who as a teacher left an indelible mark on 20th century music, and whose school (la boulangerie) was a point of reference for all musicians going to Paris.

CHORAL MUSIC

André Caplet: Le Miroir de Jésus
Anke Vondung, Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks,
Münchner Rundfunkorchester,
Howard Arman

BR Klassik
900342

André Caplet's rarely performed oratorio Le Miroir de Jésus is an enormously expressive solitaire full of meditative interiorization. Howard Arman, principal conductor of the Bavarian Radio Choir, conducts the chorus and the excellent string ensemble of the Munich Radio Orchestra. Anke Vondung's supple mezzo-soprano is ideal for this part, her singing itself captivating with fine and subtle lines and a transcendental beauty and warmth befitting the work. A great interpretation in all respects and an important contribution to the classical discography!

OPERA

Giacomo Puccini: Turandot

Sondra Radvanovsky, Jonas Kaufmann, Ermonela Jaho, Michael Spyres, Michele Pertusi
Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Antonio Pappano
Coro dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia,
Antonio Pappano
Warner Classics

5419740659

Puccini's Turandot conducted by Antonio Pappano is not just an orientalist-romantic fairy tale, but a powerful drama and ritual full of bloodlust, horror and touching sensitivity. The Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia plays brilliantly, and the interpretation underlines the opera's modern features and symphonic cohesion without losing anything of the genuine Puccini-lyricism and Italian flow. Sondra Radvanovsky, Jonas Kaufmann and Ermonela Jaho create intense and nuanced roles, and the original Alfano finale adds value to the well-produced recording.

SOLO INSTRUMENT

Eugène Ysaÿe: Six Sonatas for Violin Solo Op. 27

Hilary Hahn

Deutsche Grammophon

503130

Hilary Hahn has fully achieved her goal of playing Eugène Ysaÿe's technically demanding sonatas in the spirit of the composer while remaining true to herself. The American violinist plays the sonatas of the most renowned representative of the école franco-belge with great dynamic range and a masterful treatment of the textures, thus achieving captivating recordings of great intensity.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Schubert: Trio D 898, Notturmo D 897, Rondo D 895, Piano Trio D 929, Arpeggione Sonata

Christian Tetzlaff, Tanja Tetzlaff, Lars Vogt

Ondine

ODE 1394-2D

Hardly anyone else has looked deeper into the unbelievable abysses of Schubert's late chamber music masterpieces than Christian Tetzlaff, Tanja Tetzlaff and Lars Vogt. These are Lars Vogt's last trio recordings, and listening to the way he explores Schubert's music with an almost shy subtlety and makes it resound, often even blossom joyfully, one can only marvel.

CONCERTOS

Wolfgang A. Mozart: Violin Concertos Nos. 3-5

Kristian Bezuidenhout

Freiburger Barockorchester, Gottfried von der Goltz

Aparté

AP299

As leading representatives of historical performance practice Freiburger Barockorchester, Gottfried von der Goltz und Kristian Bezuidenhout lend these concertos fresh impulses. Highly virtuosic, with playful ease, stylish ornaments, improvisatory elements and remarkable sense of dialogue, the soloist and ensemble achieve new perspectives on Mozart's concertos.

SYMPHONIC MUSIC

Anton Bruckner: Symphony No. 8

Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich

Paavo Järvi

Alpha

987

To commemorate the bicentenary of Anton Bruckner's birth, Paavo Järvi, conducting 'his' Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, has produced one of most idiomatic Brucknerian readings of recent years, one that combines luminosity and transparency with the specific gravity we have come to

expect from this great symphonic cathedral, and deservedly winning the award for the best symphonic recording of the year.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Reconnaissance

Kaija Saariaho: Choir Works

Anna Kuvaja, Timo Kurkikangas, Helsinki Chamber Choir, Uusinta Ensemble

Nils Schweckendiek

BIS

2662

To mark the 70th birthday of the late Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, the Helsinki Chamber Choir realized this homage to her choral work. The interpretations are just as delicate as Saariaho's sound worlds of intellect and feeling in the interplay between human voices and electronics. Her choral music brings words into poetic sounds and "unfolds in the listener's imagination," as she described it. An absolute legacy!

ASSORTED PROGRAMS

Maurice Ravel: L'heure espagnole - Boléro

Isabelle Druet, Julien Behr, Loïc Félix, Thomas Dolié, Jean Teitgen

Les Siècles, François-Xavier Roth

Harmonia Mundi

HAF 905361

Ravel's music requires clarity and precision – not only in performance, but above all in the thought, the logic, the shaping of the phrase. It is only then that its true quality is born, together with the colour inherent in it — in this case the colour of the ironic folkloric stylisations, but also the irony of the humour. Thanks to the ensemble Les Siècles, restoring the sound of the early 20th century Parisian orchestra (just listen to the timbre of the woodwinds!) and the baton of François-Xavier Roth, as well as a select set of singers feeling natural and at ease in this unique incarnation of commedia dell'arte, we receive a truly Spanish hour – à la française – in this recording.

HISTORICAL RECORDINGS

Herbert von Karajan - The Early Lucerne Years

Beethoven - Mozart - Bach - Brahms – Honegger

Robert Casadesus, Geza Anda, Clara Haskil, Nathan Milstein

Swiss Festival Orchestra,

Herbert von Karajan

Audite

21464

How a star is born? The collection "Herbert von Karajan – The early Lucerne years" gives a possible answer, regarding one of the symbols of the art of conducting in the 20th century. The Internationale Musikfestwochen Luzern, later Lucerne Festival, gave in 1948 an opportunity to Herbert von Karajan. It was his first concert outside Germany, after the denazification process. His relation with the Swiss festival developed in time; these recordings made between 1952-1957, for the first time released on CD, show us a young, very talented and volcanic conductor, in beautiful remastered productions that are keeping the original live sentiment and energy. A true discovery!

PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Jules Massenet: Ariane

Amina Edris, Marianne Croux, Judith van Wanroij, Jean-Francois Borrás, Yoann Dubruque,

Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Münchner Rundfunkorchester

Laurent Campellone

Bru Zane

BZ1053

Captured live in Munich, Massenet's Ariane conducted by Laurent Campellone has been rescued from oblivion, and justice has at last been done to a score of exceptional beauty and quality. The youthfulness and lyricism of the singers in the three main roles (Ariadne, Phaedra, Theseus) are convincing. Their commitment is complete, and their timbres are fully in tune with the soulful

tensions of the characters. The Bavarian Radio Chorus assumes its roles with precision, and the Munich Radio Orchestra works wonders. Every member of the orchestra seems virtuosic and radiates the joy of playing such a beautiful score.

VIDEO: OPERA

Leos Janáček: Kát'a Kabanová

Corinne Winters, Evelyn Herlitzius, David Butt Philip, Benjamin Hulett, Jens Larsen,
Konzertvereinigung Wiener Staatsopernchor, Wiener Philharmoniker,

Jakub Hrusa - Barry Kosky

Unitel Edition

810116 91001

Often and unjustly overshadowed by Jenufa, Kát'a Kabanová is a true masterpiece by Janáček - and this performance unfolds all the energy and beauty of it. Both orchestra and the staging are excellent - it grabs and keeps our attention throughout the work - but Corinna Winter's stunning voice and performance in the title role is what makes this excellent recording truly unforgettable.

VIDEO: PERFORMANCE & DOCUMENTARIES

When music resounds, the soul is spoken to - Herbert Blomstedt

Documentary by Paul Smaczny

Accentus Music

ACC20417

Others would have retired 30 years ago. At the age of 96, Herbert Blomstedt keeps going. This brilliant documentary gives you more than an inkling why. Conductor and communicator Herbert Blomstedt is driven by a restless musical spirit, by love for the audience, 'his' orchestras, and music itself. Watch this portrait film and you will start to understand what a life for music may mean.