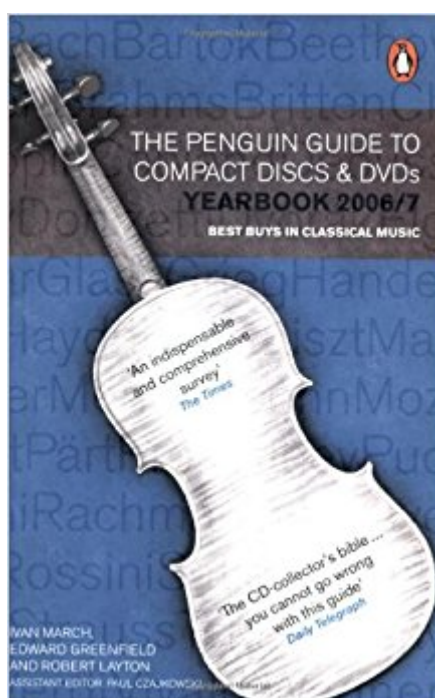


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The Penguin Guide To Compact Discs And DVDs Yearbook 2006/07 Edition (Penguin Guide To Recorded Classical Music)



Synopsis

The latest "Penguin Guide Yearbook" is the essential companion volume to the acclaimed "Penguin Guide to Compact Discs". Not only does it review the many hundreds of CDs that have appeared since the publication of the main guide in 2005, but it also takes a close look at some of the more unusual areas of the classical music repertoire, and includes extensive sections on concerts and recitals.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"More valuable than ever to any serious collector of classical music."

Ivan March is a well-known lecturer, journalist and writer in the world of recorded music. He lives in London (SW6). Edward Greenfield was for forty years on the staff of the Guardian and is a regular BBC broadcaster. He lives in London (E1). Robert Layton is a journalist and broadcaster. He lives in London (NW6).

If sometimes you have been encountered by the dilemma of choosing between several interpretations of a certain work and finally take the risk of spend your money in one... that did not suit your tastes; then, you will find this book very useful to get more certainty at those moments. First of all, it is virtually impossible to have the same tastes of the editors of this book, but this is not its objective

neither. It presents perspectives of the sound, interpretation and general quality of the recordings and the people who wrote this has listened to a HUGE amount of selections, between versions of a work and other ones. So you can rely on them as they actually can be considered as experts in the matter. They have a special qualification for the recordings and gives you a reference based on their personal tastes. The rosette is the highest ranking of a recording and then you have three to one "*"s" which means that more is better. You can actually buy your recordings based on their references and get at least 95% of probability for high satisfaction. It is a nice way to get you informed before running to the CD store...!

I've used the Penguin Guide for some 20 years now. Hasn't failed me yet. If you like music/audio critics who are artistically inspired, knowledgeable, musically and technically experienced, and who write with phenomenal clarity about their choices and judgements, this Guide has no competition. Their critiques conjure revealing and colorful detail. No arbitrary judgements here; their choices are always fair and well considered. Their "first choice" items have never disappointed; if my dealer couldn't get or didn't have Choice #1 in stock, I was always amazed that the "lesser" choices in a musical piece were still very good picks. The critical articles also excel in their evaluation of the sonic character of recordings (always technically right-on, in my experience). Save yourself lots of searching and considerable cash by investing in this well-wrought and informative guide. I've tried them all; other guides can't touch this one. An unqualified, 5-star winner.

When it comes to choosing a classical CD you will be hard pressed to find a guide that is more comprehensive, complete or convincing. The ambition of the editors is listen to almost everything in the catalogue and with each new edition of this book they seem to do just that. Their judgements are so sound that the odd disagreement one has here or there proves merely to be the exception to the rule. I have been using the Penguin Guide for nearly a decade, and in my opinion, if you can buy only one guide then this is the one to get. Of course, if your budget can stand it then the Gramophone Good CD Guide is a worthy second. But be careful: I have spent far too many hours comparing their rival impressions of various recordings - it's an addictive pastime!

This newest edition of the Penguin Guide offers some interesting new additions, including a very helpful sign (a key) to mark what the editors think are the "key recordings" of many of the works reviewed. In addition to that, all of those key recordings are grouped in an appendix at the end of the book, making it extremely easy to find them! If you own the previous edition (2002) you might be

having doubts about buying this new one. I had those doubts myself! However, I've just bought it last month (I ordered it here at .com) and I've found many new interesting recordings! I also noticed that, due to space restrictions, some of the recordings listed in the previous edition aren't here anymore, so using both editions will give you an even greater amount of information! The following thoughts are based on the review that I wrote of the previous edition (2002) of this guide. This is, without any doubts the most comprehensive classical CD guide you can buy! Although I also like, and would recommend, the Gramophone guides, the amount of information contained in the Penguin Guide is simply amazing! While the Gramophone guide lists several composers with ample and informative reviews on two or three of the recordings that they consider to be the best choices of a certain work, the Penguin guide includes many more recommendations of each work, although sometimes with much shorter reviews. The amount of composers and works listed and reviewed in this guide is incredible! I bought this guide (2002 edition) almost two years ago (from .com) and every single CD that I've bought since then, following this guide's recommendations, has proven to be the right choice! You just can't go wrong with the wealth and quality of information that you'll find within this guide's pages! This is an absolute must for any classical music lover!

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Buying CD's is expensive...the Penguin Classical CD/DVD is a must. Why? Because it will save you a lot of money...period. Whether you agree with every review or not, if you buy CD's...you can for the price of one get help in deciding which to buy, and which to stay from. I have used my guide a lot, and usually end up completely agreeing with the reviews. Buy it...you'll like it.

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