

“Diskothek” Postscripts

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Every Monday night on Swiss Radio SRF 2 Kultur’s “Diskothek” program, a panel of music experts discuss different recordings of a given musical work. In its “Nachlese” (postscripts), the Diskothek editorial team presents the winning recordings. To hear them, go to:

www.srf.ch/sendungen/diskothek

Mon, Feb 5: Othmar Schoeck, Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 3 in E major op. 46

One of the two recordings that stood up to scrutiny is a very free interpretation, while the other sticks closely to the score. The free 1961 version is imbued with the “Schoeck spirit”, as the pianist is Gisela Schoeck, the composer’s daughter. Joining her on the rostrum are Swiss violinist Ursula Bagdasarjanz and the Staatskapelle Dresden, winning over the panel with their accurate, wise and sophisticated reading of the score.

Mon, Feb 12: Maurice Ravel, Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

Once again, there were two winners: the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich under the baton of Lionel Bringuier, with US-Chinese pianist Yuja Wang, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Yan Pascal Tortelier, with French pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet. Both recordings impressed the panel with their rich palette of colors and the mastery on display.

Mon, Feb 19: Felix Mendelssohn, String Quartet in A minor

An utterly passionate String Quartet. The Chiaroscuro Quartet gives a compelling performance playing gut-string instruments, whose sound is unusual and not always completely pure. However, the panel’s clear favorites that night were the Quatuor Ebène: sonically convincing, riveting and full of energy.

Mon, Feb 26: Béla Bartók, String Quartet No. 5

The most recent, by London’s Heath Quartet, of all recordings, had to also be the most heavy-handed. The Belcea Quartett, on the other hand, passed the test, winning over the panel through clarity, poetry, and a manner of playing that, in each movement anew, bears witness to the compelling consistency of their interpretation.

“Diskothek”, every Mon, 8 p.m. on Swiss Radio SRF 2 Kultur