

## Want List for John E. Roos [2007]

In my first year of writing for *Fanfare*, it has been most encouraging to experience the flow of high quality recordings from an astonishing range of sources. Record labels, churches, orchestras, schools, scholars, and entrepreneurs simply will not let this music die. Perhaps the most vivid example was my surprise recording of the year, made by the wind ensemble from Kristiansand in southern Norway, a delightful band that plays almost like a wind choir. I hope that music-lovers will take the time to track down this recording. It is worth the effort.

It continues to be exciting to see so many orchestras issuing their own recordings. My album of the year is the recording of the brass of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. The orchestra is to be applauded for its commitment both to showcase its brass and to contemporary compositions. It was a joy to hear the first issue of Chicago Symphony's new label of the Mahler Third Symphony under Bernard Haitink. DG's Concert Series made live performances available through iTunes downloads as well as conventional discs. This made it possible, for example, to enjoy Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic in a performance of Lutosławski's Fourth Symphony and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony just days after I attended these concerts in person. Other outstanding orchestra-produced recordings included Christoph Eschenbach and Philadelphia Orchestra in Poulenc's Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani and the Saint-Saëns Third Symphony. I also highly recommend the new DG album of *Oceana* and other music of Osvaldo Golijov played (and sung) with passion and expertise by the Kronos Quartet, Atlanta Symphony and Chorus, and soloists under Robert Spano. I was privileged to have attended a live concert of *Oceana* in Atlanta just before these recordings were made. Lovers of classical music need to show their support by endeavors such as these.

I have heard some great recordings of organ music and applaud independent labels such as Regent, Loft, Cybele, and Aeolus not only for issuing outstanding recordings of a wide range of repertoire but also for outstanding packaging, information, and sound. The packaging-of-the-year award must go to Loft's recording of Weckman's complete organ works played by Hans Davidsson, who provided brilliant notes. Naxos continues to amaze with its dedication to the organ. In particular this year, I would cite Edgar Krapp's recording of Reger's *Symphonic Fantasia and Fugue*, op. 57, and Stefan Schmidt's recording of Duruflé on Aeolus. But cutting to the chase, my Want List final choices for organ recordings of the year included Sandro Müller's recording of Tournemire, Rupert Jeffcoat's recital at Coventry Cathedral, and Peter King's disc of Baroque masterpieces.

