
Andrew Parrott

Selected Reviews

L'Orfeo

Taverner Consort (Avie Records, May 2013)

"This is the most beguiling Monteverdi opera recording for years." – **Richard Morrison, *The Times* *******

"This new version of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* is thoroughly researched and reimagined." – **Nicholas Kenyon, *The Observer***

"Thoroughly examined and deeply felt." – **David Patrick Stearns, *Gramophone Magazine***

"Superb control... breathtaking ensemble... excellently engineered." – **David Shengold, *Time Out NY***

"Parrott's approach to recapturing the novelty of *Orfeo* is all about intimacy... [it is] a theatrical masterpiece and under Parrott's gentle direction, it seems more remarkable than ever." – **Simon Heighes, *International Record Review***

"The Taverner Consort and Players under Andrew Parrott's directions have served Monteverdi's music superbly well over the years... As one may expect from Andrew Parrott, the instruments are very adroitly deployed and controlled." – **Anthony Pryer, *BBC Music Magazine***

"A clear highlight of the year was Monteverdi's L'Orfeo by Andrew Parrott and his Taverner Consort & Players, as well as a reissue of Parrott's seminal recording of Gesualdo's Tenebæ Responses for Good Friday, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the composer's death." – **Classical Music Magazine**

Handel, *Amadigi* – Göttingen International Handel Festival 2012

"a superbly vibrant orchestral performance from the Göttingen Festival Orchestra under Andrew Parrott...Lovely touches of colour came from bassoons and oboes in Parrott's band, as well as a few moments of textural grit, echoing the deliberately *naïf* storm and magic effects visible on stage...but as a glimpse into opera's past they offer a fascinating encounter – offering a new understanding of Handel's own musical conventions, once so intricately bound up in the practicalities of staging and movement." – **Alexandra Coghlan, *The ArtsDesk.com***

J.S. Bach, *Trauer-Music - Music To Mourn Prince Leopold* (CD recording, Avie)

"as none of the recitative matched existing music, Parrott had to compose them all from scratch. The result is clearly the work of a Bach genius, the new vocal lines and instrumental scorings fitting seamlessly into the whole" – **Classical FM Magazine (December 2011)**

"a fantastic idea, brilliantly executed" – **Choir and Organ, Jan/Feb 2012**

Idomeneo, Opera Atelier

"In an all-new production of Mozart's first great, serious opera, Idomeneo, Opera Atelier has scored one of its greatest triumphs. The singing is superb. The orchestra, excellent. The staging is rich, textured and colourful... Everything moves well and looks

Andrew Parrott

Selected Reviews

great. The Tafelmusik orchestra, playing on period instruments, offers a finely nuanced accompaniment under the baton of Andrew Parrott... This production is a treat for the eyes, ears and mind. Don't miss it." - **John Terauds, *Toronto Star***

Orchestra of Opera North

"Conductor Andrew Parrott, an early music scholar and contemporary music champion, was master of both the evening's composers and conjured superb orchestral playing, at once strictly ordered and gorgeously expressive." - **Daily Examiner**

Iphégenie en Tauride, Opera Atelier

"Under conductor Andrew Parrott the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra admirably convey the urgency and modernity of this gripping score." - **Christopher Hoile, *Toronto Eye***

"Musically, the opera is in the so-capable hands of English conductor Andrew Parrott and both the Tafelmusik orchestra and choir are in fine fettle." - **Robert Crew, *The Star***

New York Collegium

"Parrott's work continues to be informed by scholarship, intelligence, intuition, and a passion sometimes lacking in some of his rivals...Parrott and the orchestra got into a lively, majestic swing that sounded authentically Handellian." - **Robert Dyer, *The Globe***

Gluck 'Orpheus and Eurydice', Opera Atelier

"Parrott's conducting of this rich score was masterful, keeping the tempos brisk and the textures lively." - **John Terauds, *Toronto Star***

"This show is also full of excellent artistic choices. Andrew Parrott conducts the Tafelmusik Orchestra, which provides almost breathless energy." - **John Keillor, *National Post***

Cosi Fan Tutte, Opera North

"Happily, Andrew Parrott's musical direction is a model of clarity." - **Geoff Brown, *The Times***

"Now with Andrew Parrott in the pit, the production has never been in better shape musically." - **Alfred Hickling, *The Guardian***

"The orchestra responded to Andrew Parrott's pconducting with playing of typical care and grace." - **Yorkshire Post**

London Mozart Players at the BBC Proms

"Parrott's energy has rejuvenated the LMP, and the players responded to Weir's music as naturally as if it were Mozart. Their

Andrew Parrott

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new lease of life was also clear in more familiar repertoire: they gave ebullient performance of Haydn's Creation Mass, and unearthed some rare Beethoven." - **Tom Service, *The Guardian***

"Andrew Parrott neatly piloted his band, encouraging fresh, springy articulation – a pure delight" - **Annette Morreau, *Independent***

Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers

"Andrew Parrott and the Taverner Consort, Choir and Players made full use of the spatial possibilities presented by so elaborate a setting...Parrott's vision was of the Vespers as compositional cornucopia. Each of Monteverdi's extemporisations on psalm themes was carefully delineated...Parrott and his ensemble relished the musical and poetic puns of the Audi Coelum, a game between a tenor and an echoing second singer, who repeats the final syllables of the solo part...Parrott concealed the shadowing tenor behind the organ, his voice seemingly an actual echo..." - **Tom Service, *Guardian***

Weir: A Night at the Chinese Opera (recording)

"...under Andrew Parrott, who also conducted the 1987 premiere, the sound world comes fully alive...it's a credit to the recording that so much of the magic of the score comes over." - **Andrew Clements, *Guardian***

"Weir's early opera is captured in a live recording of the brilliant 1999 Glasgow performance by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Andrew Parrott which captured the work's quirky delights." - **Andy Hamilton, *The Wire***

"...it's immediacy is compelling, and conductor Andrew Parrott knows how Weir's bright inventions fit jigsaw-like into the larger form." - **Nicholas Williams, *BBC Music Magazine***

Taverner Choir & Players: Taverner, Western Wind (CD Recording, Avie)

"Parrott's past recordings of Taverner count among his finest achievements...this new offering suggests that the hiatus of 25 years has not dulled his affinity for the music of his ensemble's namesake...dispatched with real flair" – **Fabrice Fitch, *Gramophone***