

# ABC Radio National

Recommended highlights for your listening pleasure this month

## TOP CHOICE

### CELESTIAL HARMONIES – THE PIANO EDITION

**Saturday 1, 5pm Into the Music**

Eckhart Rahn (pictured), the founder and president of the independent music label Celestial Harmonies, is often in Australia. After all, his catalogue contains many works by Australian musicians and composers. He was recently here researching aboriginal references to the constellations of stars in the southern skies for a new release on his label this year. The veteran German music publisher has been in the business for 40 years, and in the autumn of his life, he turns to music by German composers representing a kind of return to consonant harmonies. The three piano cycles are far from the raging avant garde of Rahn's early days. When *Into the Music* producer

Andrew McLennan met with Eckhart Rahn to talk about the new release, he brought with him a mock-up of an extravagant box set to be called *The Piano Edition*. The cycles, representing a sort of culmination of each composer's life's work, are *The Book of Hours* by Hans Otte, *Of the Sound of Life* by Peter Michael Hamel and *The Book of Stars* by Wilfried Hiller. When *The Piano Edition* was finally released it featured miniature scores and annotations of the three cycles, two of which were recorded by Roger Woodward, and a third by the German pianist Silke Avenhaus. Roger Woodward was in Australia for some concerts when Andrew McLennan interviewed him, and by then Eckhart Rahn was in Berlin where Andrew talked with him on line.



### REVIEWING SCOPE

**Begins Sunday 23, 8.35pm**  
**The Night Air**

Described as 'one of the ABC's small but very bright diamonds', *Scope* was also one of the longest-lived and not-infrequently reviled shows on ABC Radio. It kicked off in April 1958 and ran until early 1976, mostly under the guidance of 'frequently dishevelled, wild-eyed' producer, Donald Ingram-Smith. A magazine show devoted to exploring a new theme each week, *Scope* included opinion pieces and interviews, and employed a sometimes satirical tone. One of ABC Talk's junior producers in the early 1960s was Barry Anthony (pictured). Especially for *The Night Air*'s summer season, Anthony presents a selection of six typical



editions of *Scope* in a new series entitled *Reviewing Scope*. Anthony describes the show as a 'meta retrospective' and it's packed with diverse items from the Shah of Persia, a Cape Malay Choir from Capetown and the recording of a human stomach produced by an endoradiosonde.

In *The Night Air*'s second hour on December 23, English sound artist Vicki Bennett constructs a wobbly edifice of popular and unpopular contemporary

music in the avant retard show, *Do Or DIY*. On New Year's Eve the second hour of *The Night Air* becomes a disco party. Your champagne-slurping DJs are Short Shorts and Disco Stu, and they promise to 'get on down' with a funk-o-phonic, strobelit, platform-soled, 120 beats-per-minute orgy of Good Times ...

### NAOMI SHIHAB NYE

**Saturday 1, 3pm Poetica**

The Arab-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye was born in 1952 in St. Louis, Missouri, to a Palestinian father and an American mother. During her high school years she lived in Ramallah in Jordan, the Old City of Jerusalem and San Antonio, Texas. She is the author of numerous books of poems, including *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* (2002).

### MY MOTHERS THEY SANG

**Saturday 8, 2pm Radio Eye**

Not many Australians can trace their ancestors to the group of men who came to Australia from Afghanistan in the middle of the 19th century as 'cameleers'. Cara Rosehope can and does in this remarkable reconstruction of the way of life of the camel men, and their women, in general and her own family in particular. Written and presented by Cara Rosehope.

### MAKING JUDITHA

**Saturday 8, 5pm Into the Music**

*Making Juditha*

is a musical journey from Venice's Grand Canal to George Street in Sydney. The destination? A rare staging of Vivaldi's extraordinary oratorio *Juditha Triumphans*. Jennifer Bowen uncovers the thoughts of musicians, singers and designers as they travel through rehearsals to opening night under the baton of Maestro Attilio Cremonesi (pictured). Written in 1716, the work calls on performers with specialist training in baroque performance. And for Pinchgut Opera, it's been a process of decision-making: from casting a man to sing a role written for a woman's voice, to working out how to effect a decapitation in front of a live audience.



### BADDEST BACKPACKERS

**BY LISA WALKER**

**Sunday 28, 3pm Airplay**

Death might be a good time to make some changes, but Jean's going to give it a whirl while she's still alive. After 40 years in a 'beer and chips' marriage, Jean senses life can begin again when her husband dies. But Kenneth is still there. His ghost keeps a close eye on the business. Defying him, Jean makes changes that set her free.

## DON'T MISS

**RECONSTRUCTING THE BEATLES: THE LOVE ALBUM**  
**Saturday 22, 5pm**  
**Into the Music**



In 2003 Cirque du Soleil commissioned Beatles producer George Martin to prepare a soundtrack

for their forthcoming stage show *Love*, based on the music of the Beatles. As we hear in this richly illustrated feature, Martin brought his son Giles into the project and together they created a brilliant and controversial re-visioning of the band's recorded work. This program is produced and presented by two of Radio National's sound engineers, Mark Don and Roi Huberman. Through an extended interview with Giles Martin, and contributions from George Martin, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and Beatles engineer Richard Lush, it explores the production of the *Love* album, the innovation of the Beatles original recordings and the band's importance to two ageing RN sound guys.

### SON OF A PREACHER MAN

**Friday 7, 7.35pm**

**The Rhythm Divine**



They are the famous names of soul music – Sam Cooke (pictured), Otis Redding,

Clyde McPhatter, Aretha Franklin and Marvin Gaye – and they all have one thing in common. They were children of preachers. They each began their careers singing spirituals and gospel songs in church but, one by one, they swapped the sacred for the secular. Some, like Sam Cooke, took gospel songs and replaced the lyrics, while others like Aretha Franklin tried to keep one foot in each world, singing gospel and soul music. We'll hear hits from them all, starting with Sam Cooke's early gospel quartet the Soul Stirrers and ending with Marvin Gaye's 1971 Top Ten hit *What's Going On*.



**PUCCINI: LA BOHEME**

Thomas Schippers  
EMI Classics 9200528  
RRP \$29.95

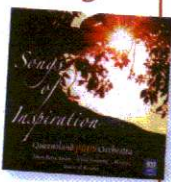
*Ultimate*

Had enough of all those Christmas carols? Perhaps it's time you revisited one of the greatest ever operas. Recorded in 1962/3 at Rome's Opera House, Thomas Schippers leads the Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera through the tale of romance and tragedy in bohemian Paris.

**SONGS OF INSPIRATION**

Queensland Pops Orchestra, Barrie Gott  
ABC Classics, RRP \$29.95

Be inspired this holiday season with a collection of works known for their empowering qualities. There's Bach, Schönberg, Rodgers & Hammerstein as well as an African-American spiritual so let music brighten your days and nights.



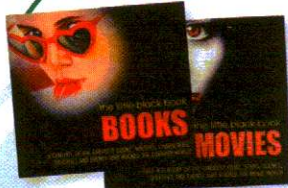
*Uplifting*

*Walking Encyclopedias*

**THE LITTLE BLACK BOOKS:  
MOVIES / BOOKS / MUSIC**

Cassell, RRP \$39.95 each

What was the key scene in Sergio Leone's *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*? Who wrote *Devil in a Blue Dress*? And what was the date of Elvis Presley's "Comeback Special" TV show? Find out all these fabulous facts in these three black books documenting history's greatest creative works.



**A GOOD NOSE & GREAT LEGS**

By Robert Geddes

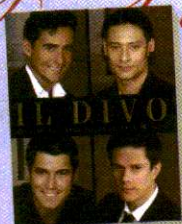
Murdoch Books, RRP \$39.95

Fancy a good drop? Then let wine-connoisseur Robert Geddes take you through Australian and international wine culture. Add to your knowledge of wine diversity, quality, antiquity and flavour in this comprehensive guide.

*Wine Snobs*



*Young Guns*



**IL DIVO: OUR MUSIC,  
OUR JOURNEY, OUR WORDS**

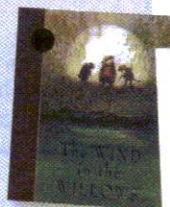
Headline, RRP \$49.95

Be inspired by the magical musical journey of Il Divo who've helped bring an accessible opera sound into the mainstream. Fabulous photos and personal insights from each member of the group make for a wonderful portrait of the lives behind the phenomenon.

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

By Kenneth Grahame, Illustrated by Robert Ingpen  
Walker Books, RRP \$24.95

Kenneth Grahame's beloved children's classic is celebrated once more in this wonderful centenary edition. Relive the unforgettable tales of Mole, Ratty, Badger and Mr Toad as they encounter gypsy caravans and even a prison cell.



*Youngsters*

*Vegetarians*

**DONNA HAY: SIMPLE ESSENTIALS**

HarperCollins, RRP \$24.99

One of Australia's favourite cooks Donna Hay delivers fabulous fruit and sensational salads in these two new releases. It can be all vegetable lasagna, rocket and parmesan pasta if you like, or if desserts and breakfasts are more your thing you'll love her passionfruit soufflé, almond pear tart and nectarine French Toast recipes.

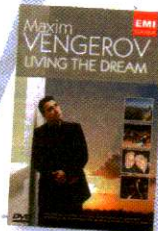


*Violin Afficionados*

**MAXIM VENGEROV: LIVING THE DREAM**

EMI Classics 5099950340293, RRP \$29.95

One of the world's most acclaimed violinists, Maxim Vengerov embarks on a year of self-discovery. Join him as he records a concerto with his mentor Mstislav Rostropovich, studies jazz and rock and even dances a tango on stage!



**THE COMPLETE STUDIO RECORDINGS 1949-69: MARIA CALLAS**

EMI Classics 9591824, \$189.99 (70 CDs)

Indulge yourself with one of the voices of the century in this incredible collection of studio recordings by Maria Callas. There are 26 complete operas and a bonus CD-ROM with libretti, translations and a Callas photo library.



**A TOWN LIKE PARIS**

By Bryce Corbett

Hachette, RRP \$35

Nursing a broken heart and sick of his dead-end job, Aussie journalist Bryce Corbett decided to head to Paris for a little adventure. Hear about his tales of Parisian nightlife, French women and forming a rock band in this entertaining portrait of la vie parisienne.

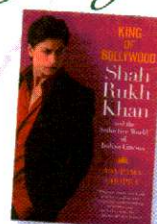
**KING OF BOLLYWOOD: SHAH RUKH KHAN AND THE  
SEDUCTIVE WORLD OF INDIAN CINEMA**

By Anupama Chopra

Hachette, RRP \$24.95

Come inside the larger than life world of Bollywood and its undisputed megastar, Shah Rukh Khan. Written by notable film critic Anupama Chopra, the book delves deep into the filmstar's charmed life as well as the \$1.5 billion industry.

*Zany*



**OF THE SOUND OF LIFE/BOOK OF HOURS/BOOK OF STARS**

Roger Woodward, Silke Avenhaus, Hans Otte, Peter Michael Hamel, Wilfried Hiller  
Celestial Harmonies, 4 CD 19920-2

For hard-core contemporary music fans this box set of new compositions features the talents of Australian pianist Rodger Woodward among others. As part of the packaging, the scores of each of the pieces are provided so the musicians amongst you will have a chance to play along!



*Zealous*