

Daily Sparkle®

The Activity Coordinator's Friend

Daily Sparkle CD - A Review of Famous Songs of the Past

'Fascinating Facts' September 2018

Track 1 September In the Rain

September in the Rain is a popular song by Harry Warren and Al Dubin, published in 1937. The song was introduced by James Melton in the film *Melody for Two*. It has been recorded by many artists since.

Sarah Lois Vaughan (March 27, 1924 – April 3, 1990) was an American jazz singer, described as having "one of the most wondrous voices of the 20th century." Nicknamed "Sassy", "The Divine One" and "Sailor" (for her salty speech), Sarah Vaughan was a Grammy Award winner. At the age of 18 she was immediately thrust into stardom after a winning amateur night performance at Harlem's Zeus Theater. She gave concerts and toured right up till the time of her death, playing with many famous jazz musicians. She won the highest honour in jazz the Jazz Masters Award in 1989.

Track 2 Bobby Shafto

Bobby Shafto is an English language folk song. The earliest printed version is in 1805. No-one is quite sure who Bobby Shafto was.

The Blaydon Aces Roly Veitch and fellow guitarist James Birkett joined up as 'The Blaydon Aces'. Their versions are quite traditional in style but the accompaniments behind the vocals are original with dialects quite natural and unforced.

Track 3 Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Let Me Call You Sweetheart is a popular song, with music by Leo Friedman and lyrics by Beth Slater Whitson. The song was published in 1910 and first recorded by The Peerless Quartet. The song was recorded by Bette Midler for the film "The Rose".

Harry Lillis '**Bing**' **Crosby** (May 3, 1903 – October 14, 1977) was an American singer and actor. Crosby's trademark bass-baritone voice made him one of the best-selling recording artists of the 20th century, with over half a billion records in circulation. A multimedia star, from 1934 to 1954 Bing Crosby was a leader in record sales, radio ratings and motion picture hits. His early career coincided with technical recording innovations; this allowed him to develop a laid-back, intimate singing style that influenced many of the popular male singers who followed him, including Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin. Crosby boosted American G.I. morale during World War II and, during his peak years, around 1948, polls declared him the "most admired man alive," ahead of Jackie Robinson and Pope Pius XII.

Track 4 A-Ticket A-Tasket

A nursery rhyme first recorded in America in the late nineteenth century. It was sung while children danced in a circle. One of the number ran on the outside of the circle and dropped a handkerchief. The nearest child would then pick it up and chase the dropper. If caught the dropper was either kissed, joined the circle, or had to tell the name of their sweetheart. It was used as the basis for a very successful and highly regarded 1938 recording by Ella Fitzgerald.

Ella Jane Fitzgerald (April 25, 1917 – June 15, 1996), also known as the 'First Lady of Song', 'Queen of Jazz', and 'Lady Ella', was an American jazz and song vocalist. With a vocal range spanning three octaves, she was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing and intonation. Fitzgerald was a notable interpreter of the Great American Songbook. Over the course of her 59-year recording career, she was the winner of many Awards.

Track 5 Underneath the Arches

Underneath the Arches is a 1932 popular song with words and music by Bud Flanagan, and additional lyrics by Reg Connelly. It was one of the most famous songs of the duo Flanagan and Allen. According to a television programme broadcast in 1957, Bud Flanagan said that he wrote the song in Derby in 1927, and first performed it a week later at the Pier Pavilion, Southport. It refers to the arches of Friar Gate railway bridge and to the homeless men who slept there during the Great Depression.

Flanagan and Allen were a British singing and comedy double act popular during World War II. Its members were Bud Flanagan (1896–1968) and Chesney Allen (1893–1982). They were first paired in a Florrie Forde revue. As music hall comedians, they would often feature a mixture of comedy and music in their act. Throughout the Second World War they appeared in several films and were both members of The Crazy Gang. Flanagan and Allen's songs featured the same, usually gentle, humour for which the duo were known in their live performances, and during the Second World War they reflected the

experiences of ordinary people during wartime. Songs like 'We're Going to Hang out the Washing on the Siegfried Line' mocked the German defences (Siegfried Line), while others like 'Miss You' sang of missing one's sweetheart during enforced absences.

Track 6 Abide With Me

Abide with Me is a Christian hymn by Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte, most often sung to English composer William Henry Monk's tune "Eventide." Lyte wrote the poem in 1847 and set it to music while he lay dying from tuberculosis; he survived only a further three weeks after its completion.

King's College Choir owes its existence to King Henry VI who founded it to sing daily services in his magnificent chapel. This remains the Choir's role and is an important part of the lives of its 16 choristers, 14 choral scholars and two organ scholars, who study a variety of subjects in the College.

Track 7 The British Grenadiers

The British Grenadiers is a traditional marching song of British and Commonwealth realm military units whose badge of identification carries the grenade. The tune dates from the 17th century.

Cornell University Choir

The Choir from the famous American University.

Track 8 Mother of Mine

This song is from the *Jazz Singer* which was a 1927 American musical film. The first feature-length motion picture with synchronized dialogue sequences, its release heralded the commercial ascendance of the "talkies" and the decline of the silent film era.

Al Jolson (May 26, 1886 – October 23, 1950) was an American singer, comedian, and actor. In his heyday, he was dubbed "The World's Greatest Entertainer" His performing style was brash and extroverted, and he popularised a large number of songs. In the 1930s, he was America's most famous and highest paid entertainer. Although he's best remembered today as the star in the first (full length) talking movie, *The Jazz Singer* in 1927, he later starred in a series of successful musical films throughout the 1930s. After a period of inactivity, his stardom returned with the 1946 Oscar-winning biographical film, *The Jolson Story*. After the attack on Pearl Harbour, Jolson became the first star to entertain troops overseas during World War II. He died just weeks after returning to the U.S., partly due to the physical exertion of performing.

Track 9 All In The Game

It's All in the Game was a 1958 hit for Tommy Edwards. Carl Sigman composed the lyrics in 1951 to a wordless 1911 composition entitled "Melody in A Major," written by Charles Dawes, later Vice President of the United States under Calvin Coolidge. It is the only pop single to have been co-written by a U.S. Vice President or winner of the Nobel Peace Prize!

(The) Four Tops are an American vocal quartet, whose repertoire has included jazz, soul music, R&B, disco and show tunes. Founded in Detroit, Michigan as The Four Aims, lead singer Levi Stubbs, and group mates Abdul "Duke" Fakir, Renaldo "Obie" Benson and Lawrence Payton remained together for over four decades, having gone from 1953 until 1997 without a single change in personnel. Among a number of groups who helped define the Motown Sound of the 1960s, The Temptations, and The Supremes, the Four Tops were notable for having Stubbs, a baritone, as their lead singer; most groups of the time were fronted by a tenor.

Track 10 We'll Gather Lilacs

This is, without question, the most famous duet by Webster Booth and Anne Ziegler - and also one of the most famous compositions by Ivor Novello. It appeared in 'Perchance to Dream', which opened in 1945. This duet is so romantic, there is some danger that the delicate listener might swoon!

Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth

(Leslie) Webster Booth was born in Birmingham in 1902 and Anne Ziegler (Irené Eastwood) was born in Liverpool eight-and-a-half years later in 1910. They met during the filming of 'Faust' at the end of 1934. Ziegler played Marguerite and Webster Booth played opposite her as Faust. They fell in love and became the most successful British singing duettists of their era. They were at the height of their success during the war, appearing in West End musicals and films. In 1948 they did a major tour of Australia and New Zealand.

In the mid-fifties they went on a concert tour of South Africa and remained there for twenty-two years. Early in 1978 they returned home and settled in Penrhyn Bay. They knew Wales well from their days in Variety, and had spent holidays in Llandudno. An article about them appeared in the 'Sunday Times' and they were flooded with letters from admiring fans, and offers to appear on TV, radio and stage. For several years they were busier than ever, travelling all over the UK to give talks and concerts. Webster died in 1982 and Ziegler in 2003.

Track 11 A White Sports Coat & a Pink Carnation

A White Sport Coat (and a Pink Carnation) was a 1957 rock and roll song with words and music both written by Marty Robbins. Robbins recalled writing the song in about 20 minutes, while being driven in a car. He is said to have had the inspiration for the song while driving from a motel to a venue in Ohio where he was due to perform that evening. During the course of the journey, he passed a high school, where the students were dressed ready for their prom.

The King Brothers were a British pop vocal trio popular in the late 1950s and early 1960s. They are best remembered for their cover versions of "Standing on the Corner" and "A White Sport Coat (And A Pink Carnation)". The group was composed of three brothers who first performed together professionally in the 1950s on the children's television show All Your Own.

Track 12 Can't Help Lovin' That Man Of Mine

Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man with music by Jerome Kern, and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, is one of the most famous songs from their classic 1927 musical play Show Boat. The song, written in a blues tempo, is most closely associated with the character Julie, the biracial leading lady of the showboat "Cotton Blossom". Show Boat is a 1951 American musical romantic drama film.

Judy Garland (born Frances Ethel Gumm; June 10, 1922 – June 22, 1969) was an American actress, singer and vaudevillian. She was renowned for her contralto voice, and attained international stardom throughout a career that spanned more than 40 years as an actress in musical and dramatic roles and on the concert stage. After appearing in vaudeville with her two older sisters, Garland was signed to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as a teenager. There she made more than two dozen films, including nine with Mickey Rooney and the 1939 film, The Wizard of Oz. Despite her professional triumphs, Garland struggled immensely in her personal life, starting from when she was a child. Her self-image was strongly influenced by film executives, who said she was unattractive and constantly manipulated her onscreen physical appearance. She was plagued by financial instability, often owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes. She married five times, with her first four marriages ending in divorce. She also had a long battle with drugs and alcohol, which ultimately led to her death at the age of 47.

Track 13 Loch Lomond

Is a well-known traditional Scottish song first published in 1841 in Vocal Melodies of Scotland. Loch Lomond is the largest Scottish loch, located between the counties of Dunbartonshire and Stirlingshire. In Scotland, the song is often the final piece of music played during an evening of revelry (a dance party or dinner, etc.).

The King Sisters were an American big band-era vocal group consisting of six sisters: Alyce, Donna, Luise, Marilyn, Maxine, and Yvonne King. Born in Utah, the King Sisters originally were part of the "Driggs Family" of Entertainers. In 1935, the King Sisters accepted a job with bandleader Horace Heidt. In the following years, they separately and together sang with the bands of Artie Shaw's Old Gold programme. They released dozens of records throughout the 1940s, 50s and 60s and influenced generations of jazz-vocal groups. They gained their biggest successes during the big-band era, recording their signature four-part harmonies over lush orchestrations. A second generation of the King Family, the Four King Cousins, continues to carry on the musical tradition.

Track 14 Poor Old Joe

A song by Stephen Foster. It was published in New York in 1853. Joe was inspired by a servant in the home of Foster's father-in-law, Dr. McDowell of Pittsburgh. Some think the song "epitomises Foster's racial condescension" but others say the song stands apart from the debasing minstrel and "coon" songs of the era. The song has a soft melancholy, that brings it close to the traditional African American spiritual.

Paul Leroy Robeson (April 9, 1898 – January 23, 1976) was an American singer and actor who was a political activist for the Civil Rights Movement. His advocacy of anti-imperialism, affiliation with Communism, and criticism of the US brought retribution from the government and public condemnation. He was blacklisted, and to his financial and social detriment, he refused to rescind his stand on his beliefs and remained opposed to the direction of US policies.

Robeson won a scholarship to Rutgers University, where he was a football All-American and class valedictorian. He graduated from Columbia Law School while playing in the National Football League(NFL) and singing and acting in off-campus productions. After theatrical performances in *The Emperor Jones* and *All God's Chillun Got Wings* he became an integral part of the Harlem Renaissance.

Track 15 Black Hills of Dakota

The Black Hills of Dakota is a song, written for the musical film *Calamity Jane*, about the singer's love for, and desire to return to, the Black Hills of South Dakota. The most notable recording of the song was done by Doris Day, issued both on the soundtrack album of the film and as a single.

Doris Day (born Doris Mary Ann Kappelhoff, April 3, 1924) is an American actress, singer, and animal rights activist. With an entertainment career that spanned through almost 50 years, Day started her career as a big band singer in 1939, but only began to be noticed after her first hit recording, *Sentimental*

Journey, in 1945. After leaving the Les Brown & His Band of Renown to try a solo career, she started her long-lasting partnership with Columbia Records, which would remain her only recording label. The contract lasted from 1947 to 1967, and included more than 650 recordings, making Day one of the most popular and acclaimed singers of the 20th century.

Track 16 September Song

An American pop standard composed by Kurt Weill, with lyric by Maxwell Anderson, introduced by Walter Huston in the 1938 Broadway musical *Knickerbocker Holiday*. It has since been recorded by numerous singers and instrumentalists. It was also used in the 1950 film *September Affair*, and for the credits in the television series *May to December* (a quote from the opening line of the song).

Walter Thomas Huston was a Canadian-born American actor. He was the father of actor and director John Huston, the grandfather of Pablo Huston, Walter Anthony (Tony) Huston, Anjelica Huston. He began his career in vaudeville but once talkies began in Hollywood, he achieved fame in both character roles and as a leading man. Huston remained busy throughout the 1930s and 1940s, both on stage and screen (becoming one of America's most distinguished actors); he performed "September Song" in the original Broadway production of *Knickerbocker Holiday* in 1938.

Track 17 Pink Toothbrush

Co-written by Ralph Ruvin, Bob Halpin, Harold Irving and Johnny Sheridan, 'Pink Toothbrush' is one novelty song Max Bygraves was pleased to have recorded. In his autobiography he wrote: 'Sometimes in my stage act I'll announce a request for this song. If I hear a ripple go through the audience I'll add, 'Don't knock it folks, that song has sold over three million. Not records – toothbrushes''.

Max Bygraves OBE (born Walter William Bygraves on 16 October 1922) is an English comedian, singer, actor and variety performer. He appeared on his own television shows, sometimes performing comedy sketches between songs. Shows he presented included the game show *Family Fortunes*. Bygraves was born the son of poor parents in London, England. His father was a professional boxer, known as *Battling Tom Smith*, and a casual dockworker. Bygraves later changed his name from Walter William to Max after comedian Max Miller.

Track 18 Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty

Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty is a music hall song written by Arthur J. Mills, Fred Godfrey and Bennett Scott in 1916. It was popular during the First World War and tells a story of three fictional soldiers on the Western Front suffering from homesickness and their longing to return to "Blighty" - a slang term for Britain.

Stanley Kirkby (1878 – 30 October 1949) was an English baritone singer and variety artist of the early 20th century. Possessing a "pure baritone" voice and with "perfect diction," he was able to sing music from a wide range of genres. He sang ballads and popular songs of the Edwardian era, the First World War and the inter-War period. He sang mostly in music halls and variety theatres and was a popular recording artist.

Track 19 Climb Every Mountain

Climb Every Mountain is a show tune from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The Sound of Music*. It is sung at the close of the first act by the Mother Abbess. It is an inspirational piece, to encourage people to take every step towards attaining their dreams. Based on the book *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria von Trapp, *The Sound of Music* is about a young woman who leaves an Austrian convent to become a governess to the seven children of a naval officer widower. *The Sound of Music* contains other popular songs, including "Edelweiss", "My Favorite Things", "Do-Re-Mi", "Sixteen Going on Seventeen", and the title song, "The Sound of Music". It was filmed on location in Salzburg, Austria.

Peggy Wood (February 9, 1892 – March 18, 1978) was an American actress of stage, film and television. She was a direct descendant of Daniel Boone. Wood spent nearly fifty years on the stage, beginning in the chorus and becoming known as a Broadway singer and star. She made her stage debut in 1910 and her final screen appearance was as the gentle, wise Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* in 1965, for which she received an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress. She was thrilled to be in the movie although she knew that she could no longer sing the high notes for "Climb Ev'ry Mountain". She was dubbed (for singing) by Margery McKay. In her autobiography, Marni Nixon, who appeared in the film as Sister Sophia, said Peggy especially liked McKay's singing voice as she sounded like Peggy did in her younger days.

Track 20 Button Up Your Overcoat

Button Up Your Overcoat is a popular song. The music was written by Ray Henderson, the lyrics by B.G. DeSylva and Lew Brown. The song was published in 1928, and was first performed later that same year by vocalist Ruth Etting.

Ruth Etting (November 23, 1897 – September 24, 1978) was an American singing star and actress of the 1920s and 1930s, who had over 60 hit recordings and worked in stage, radio, and film. She is known as "America's sweetheart of song". Her signature tunes were Shine On, Harvest Moon, Ten Cents a Dance and Love Me or Leave Me. Etting divorced her husband in 1937, and fell in love with her pianist, Myrl Alderman, but in 1938 he was shot and injured by her ex-husband. Her ex-husband was convicted of attempted murder and Etting married Alderman, who was almost a decade her junior, in December 1938. The scandal of the sensational trial in Los Angeles effectively ended her career.

Track 21 I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen

I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen is a popular song written by Thomas Westendorf in 1875. In spite of its American origins, it is known and revered as an Irish ballad.

Josef Locke (23 March 1917 – 15 October 1999) was the stage name of Joseph McLaughlin, an Irish tenor. He was successful in the United Kingdom and Ireland in the 1940s and 1950s. Born in Derry, Ireland, he was the son of a butcher and cattle dealer, and one of nine children. He started singing in local churches in the Bogside at the age of seven. In the late 1930s he joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Known as The Singing Bobby, he became a local celebrity before starting to work the UK variety circuit, where he played 19 seasons in the northern English seaside resort of Blackpool.

Track 22 The Runaway Train

A much loved traditional song.

Norman Alexander Milne, known professionally as **Michael Holliday** (26 November 1924 – 29 October 1963) was a British crooner popular in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He had a string of chart hits in the pre-Beatles era in the UK, including "The Story of My Life" and "Starry Eyed". Michael Holliday was born in Liverpool, and brought up in Kirkdale. His career in music began by winning an amateur talent contest, 'New Voices of Merseyside', at the Locarno Ballroom in Liverpool. Holliday's style of singing was heavily influenced by Bing Crosby, who was his idol. The style would earn him the title of "the British Bing Crosby". Holliday had an ongoing problem with stage fright, and had a mental breakdown in 1961. He died two years later, from a suspected drug overdose.

Track 23 Fever

Fever is a song written by Eddie Cooley and Otis Blackwell, who used the pseudonym John Davenport. It was originally recorded by Little Willie John in 1956. It has been covered by numerous artists from various musical genres, notably Peggy Lee.

Peggy Lee (May 26, 1920 – January 21, 2002) was an American jazz and popular music singer, songwriter, composer and actress, in a career spanning six decades. From her beginning as a vocalist on local radio to singing with Benny Goodman's big band, she forged a sophisticated persona, evolving into a multi-faceted artist and performer. She wrote music for films, acted, and created conceptual record albums—encompassing poetry, jazz, chamber pop, and art song.

Track 24 The Friendship Song

Written by Cole Porter, this song was featured in American sit-com 'I Love Lucy', as well as the film 'Du Barry Was A Lady' featuring Lucille Ball and Gene Kelly.

Lucille Désirée Ball Morton (August 6, 1911 – April 26, 1989) was an American actress, comedian, model, film-studio executive, and producer. She was best known as the star of the self-produced sitcoms *I Love Lucy*, *The Lucy–Desi Comedy Hour*, *The Lucy Show*, and *Here's Lucy*.

Track 25 Granada

Granada is a Mexican song written in 1932 by Agustín Lara. The song is about the Spanish city of Granada.

Mario Lanza (January 31, 1921 – October 7, 1959) was an American tenor, actor, and Hollywood movie star of the late 1940s and the 1950s. After appearing at the Hollywood Bowl in 1947, Lanza signed a seven-year contract with MGM's head, Louis B. Mayer, who saw his performance and was impressed by his singing. His movie debut was in *That Midnight Kiss* (1949) with Kathryn Grayson and Ethel Barrymore. The following year, in *The Toast of New Orleans*, his song "Be My Love" became his first million-selling hit. In 1951, he played the role of Enrico Caruso his tenor idol, in the biopic, *The Great Caruso*, with the song "The Loveliest Night of the Year".

Lanza was known to be "rebellious, tough, and ambitious", and during most of his film career, he suffered from addictions to overeating and alcohol which had a serious effect on his health and his relationships with directors, producers and, occasionally, other cast members. Hollywood columnist Hedda Hopper writes that "his smile, which was as big as his voice, was matched with the habits of a tiger cub, impossible to housebreak". She adds that he was the "last of the great romantic performers". He died at only 38.

Track 26 'A' You're Adorable

Released in 1948 this was one of Perry Como's most popular hits.

Pierino Ronald "Perry" Como (May 18, 1912 – May 12, 2001) was an American singer and television personality. "Mr. C.", as he was nicknamed, sold millions of records and pioneered a weekly musical variety television show, which was one of the most successful in television history. Como was seen weekly on television from 1949 to 1963. His television shows and seasonal specials were broadcast throughout the world. Como's appeal spanned generations and he was widely respected for both his professional standards and the conduct in his personal life. His life was summed up in these few words: "50 years of music and a life well lived. An example to all." One of the many factors in his success was Como's insistence on his principles of good taste; if he considered something to be in bad or poor taste, it was not in the show or broadcast. Another was his naturalness; the man viewers saw on the screen was the same person who could be encountered behind a supermarket shopping cart, at a bowling alley, or in a kitchen making breakfast.

Track 27 Land of Hope and Glory

Land of Hope and Glory is a British patriotic song, with music by Edward Elgar and lyrics by A. C. Benson, written in 1902. The music to which the words of the refrain "Land of Hope and Glory, &c" below are set is the "trio" theme from Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1.[2] The words were fitted to the melody on the suggestion of King Edward VII who told Elgar he thought the melody would make a great song.

Last Night of the Proms

The Proms, more formally known as The BBC Proms, is an eight-week summer season of daily orchestral classical music concerts and other events held annually, predominantly in the Royal Albert Hall in London. Many people's perception of the Proms is taken from the Last Night, although this concert is very different from the others. It usually takes place on the second Saturday in September. The concert is traditionally in a lighter, 'winding-down' vein, with popular classics being followed by a series of British patriotic pieces in the second half of the concert. It traditionally begins with Edward Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance including Land of Hope and Glory culminating in Thomas Arne's Rule, Britannia!

Track 28 Rule Britannia

Rule, Britannia! is a British patriotic song, originating from the poem "Rule, Britannia" by James Thomson and set to music by Thomas Arne in 1740. It is strongly associated with the Royal Navy, but also used by the British Army.

Bryn Terfel Jones CBE (born 9 November 1965) is a Welsh bass-baritone opera and concert singer. Terfel was initially associated with the roles of Mozart, particularly Figaro and Don Giovanni, but has subsequently shifted his attention to heavier roles, especially those by Wagner. He was for a time the best operatic baritone in this country.

Track 29 Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time is a short poem by William Blake from the preface to his epic Milton a Poem, one of a collection of writings known as the Prophetic Books. The date of 1804 on the title page is probably when the plates were begun, but the poem was printed around 1808. Today it is best known as the anthem "Jerusalem", with music written by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916. Upon hearing the orchestral version for the first time, King George V said that he preferred "Jerusalem" over "God Save the King" (the national anthem), and "Jerusalem" is considered to be England's most popular patriotic song.

Track 30 Auld Lang Syne

Auld Lang Syne is a Scots poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song. It is well known in many countries, especially in the English-speaking world; its traditional use being to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight. It is also sung at funerals, graduations and as a farewell or ending to other occasions. The international Boy Scout youth movement, in many countries, uses it as a close to jamborees and other functions.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra is a British radio orchestra based in London. Founded in 1930, it was the first permanent salaried orchestra in London. It is the principal broadcast orchestra of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The orchestra was originally conceived as a joint enterprise by the BBC and the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham. From the 1950s to the 1970s the orchestra failed to regain its pre-war standing, but by the first decades of the 21st century the orchestra was once again regarded by critics as of first-class status.