Want List for Carson Cooman [2018]

Once again, my list includes a release from the Boston Modern Orchestra Project’s ongoing and indispensable series of recordings. I’ve long enjoyed Peter Child’s excellent music and have reviewed a past album of his chamber music. This release of his orchestral works is anchored by a particularly strong piece, Shanti, which gives the album its title.

Kyle Gann’s magnum opus Hyperchromatica is an extended set of movements (spread across two CDs) scored for three retuned mechanical pianos (Disklaviers). The music draws together every facet of Gann’s style and life-long musical interests: rhythmic complexity, microtonality, extended “tonal” harmonies and voice leading, post-Minimalist surfaces, and more. The result is a tremendous mix of sheer enjoyment coupled with extremely sophisticated compositional craft.

An album on Navona of Daniel Crozier’s orchestral music includes his large-scale Symphony No. 1. Crozier has been producing beautifully crafted and appealing music for a number of years now, and though some chamber music and an opera have appeared on CD previously, this is a welcome first release of his orchestral music.

In 42:1, I reviewed a truly superb trumpet/organ album played by the Illumina Duo of Ellie Lovegrove and Richard Moore. In a genre that is often filled with less than inspiring transcriptions, this album of top quality original works is very welcome.

A release of three American symphonies on the BIS label under the direction of Lance Friedel gives a chance to highlight Symphony No. 2 by the great American composer Stephen Albert, whose life was

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tragically cut short in 1992 by a car accident, just as he was writing some of his finest works. This is one of my favorite pieces by one of my favorite composers, and this release is only its second recording. Strong symphonies by Walter Piston and Samuel Jones complete the album.

CHILD Shanti • Boston Modern O Project • BMOP/SOUND 1057

GANN Hyperchromatica • Gann • OTHER MINDS 1025-2

CROZIER East of the Sun & West of the Moon • Moravian PO / Seattle PO • NAVONA 6137

ILLUMINATIONS: Dances and Poems • Lovegrove / Moore • CONVIVIUM 039

PISTON Symphony No. 6. JONES Symphony No. 3. ALBERT Symphony No. 2 • Friedel / London SO • BIS 2118 (SACD)

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