

Classical CD Reviews

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CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

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A conundrum facing large classical record companies must be whether to risk pioneering recordings of lesser-known works or continue to plug away at the long-established favourites. Part of the answer must lie in how famous the featured artist is. Celebrated names can be relied on to sell whatever they perform, whereas newcomers have to rest content with standard items. This month we have four new CDs that confirm that analysis.



The famous young Russian pianist Evgeny Kissin performs in Taiwan in April, and you would be hard pushed to find a better introduction to both his art and some fine music than by listening to his latest CD.

The 19th century Russian composer Alexander Scriabin was an extraordinary figure -- he believed he was a messiah whose music would return his listeners to paradise. Kissin's performance of his *Sonata No:5* here is absolutely stupendous and challenges the classic version recorded back in 1956 by Vladimir Horowitz. He follows up with a fascinating sonata by Nikolai Medtner (1880 to 1951). There's a DVD about Kissin, incidentally, also from RCA, directed by Christopher Nupen.

**EVGENY
KISSIN**
Piano
Scriabin,
Medtner,
Stravinsky
RCA Red
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