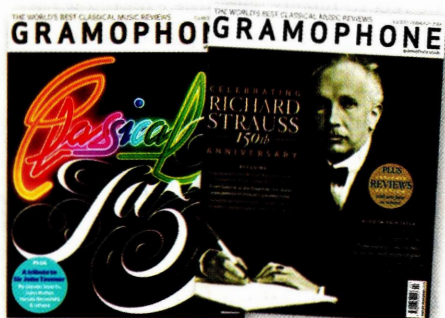


# NOTES & LETTERS

Gramophone's new look • Classical music and jazz • Julian von Károlyi • Piano quintets

Write to us at Gramophone, Mark Allen Group, St Jude's Church, Dulwich Road, London SE24 0PB or [gramophone@markallengroup.com](mailto:gramophone@markallengroup.com)



**New year, new Gramophone**  
I first started reading *Gramophone* in the British Council library in downtown Athens, Greece, when I was 16. I'm now 60. I have stayed in touch with it either through libraries or subscriptions. Your change of format in the January issue restored my faith in you, which had started to waver in recent years. At last, reflection, substance and argument have returned on every page! I'm not a musician. I'm a professor in comparative literature who loves music, and therefore I look for both information and depth, enjoyment and engagement in a magazine. *Gramophone* has returned to its high musical standards and I offer my wholehearted encouragement. *Vassilios Lambropoulos, via email*

I have bought and read every issue of *Gramophone* since 1953. Over the 60 years that followed, I have been guided, informed, misled and often exasperated. Recently I started to query more often whether or not to renew my subscription, since the reviews seemed to getting shorter, and my *Gramophone* reading took less and less time each issue. Recently it became a case of, 'I'll try one more year, for the sake of tradition'.

I was pleasantly surprised with the current issue (February), which arrived at roughly the same time as a letter saying 'Your subscription will expire shortly...' Lots of things to read! After more than 60 years of record-buying, I rarely need advice from other people as to what I should buy (my current problem is disposing of unwanted CDs on my bulging shelves!). But the February issue reminded me how much I enjoy the Elgar and Shostakovich piano quintets and had me taking them off the shelf; it gave me a fascinating appraisal of Richard Strauss; it gave me an interesting article

## Letter of the Month



Claudio Abbado conducting the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, one of the many ensembles he founded

## Abbado, the maestro who knew how to listen

Claudio Abbado, the internationally acclaimed Italian conductor, died on January 20 after a long illness. He was the esteemed principal conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1982-85 as well as the conductor of most of the world's great orchestras for decades. His musical presence and gifts are treasures that will be missed everywhere in the civilised world. He made the observation that people

learn how to talk but they don't learn how to listen. Listening is the primary goal of every effective ensemble, be that a soloist, string quartet, orchestra or even families, organisations and nations of the world. We should heed to his wisdom. Better music will be the result. That may be the best way we can honour Maestro Abbado.

*Leon J Hoffman*  
Chicago, USA

prestoclassical.co.uk is a website that speaks your language, underpinned by an evident love of music and the world of recordings (Gramophone). No other site selling classical CDs and DVDs is arranged in such a logical and accessible format where you can easily find lists of composers' works, compare different options, view recommendations and read reviews. We believe that you will find it one of the most user-friendly classical music sites on the internet. The letter of the month receives £50 of Presto Classical gift vouchers. Please send letters responding to articles in this issue for consideration for publication in the April issue by March 3. Gramophone reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

PRESTO  
CLASSICAL