

## SONY CLASSICAL RELEASES TWO BOX SETS – OCTOBER 25

**Zubin Mehta: The Complete Columbia Album Collection**  
Recordings from 1965-2015 on 94 CDs and 3 DVDs  
Reviewer Rate: \$138.85

**Raymond Lewenthal: Complete RCA & Columbia Album Collection**  
Recordings from 1965-1970 on 6 CDs plus a bonus CD with interviews  
Reviewer Rate: \$26.00



### **Zubin Mehta: The Complete Columbia Album Collection**

Sony Classical announces the October 25, 2019 release of a comprehensive edition of **Zubin Mehta**'s recordings for the RCA Red Seal and CBS/Sony labels. This extensive set, containing 94 CDs and 3 DVDs, documents half a century of outstanding achievement by one of the foremost conductors of our time.

The Viennese-trained Indian maestro has enjoyed particularly close associations with the flagship orchestras of Vienna, New York, Los Angeles, Israel and Berlin, and the new box features him directing those ensembles in symphonies, concertos, symphonic poems, ballets and opera excerpts by Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Liszt, Wagner,

Tchaikovsky, Bruckner, Mahler, Johann and Richard Strauss, Schoenberg, Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff, Stravinsky, Bartók and other composers. The lineup of soloists boasts such illustrious names as violinists Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman, Midori and Nikolaj Znaider; pianists Vladimir Horowitz, Arthur Rubinstein, Emil Gilels, Daniel Barenboim, Murray Perahia, Yefim Bronfman and Rudolf Buchbinder; and sopranos Montserrat Caballé and Jane Eaglen.

Mehta's highly successful Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Concerts from 1990, 1995, 1998, 2002 and 2015 are, of course also included as well as the Verdi Requiem and several complete operas: his celebrated recordings of *Il trovatore* and *Tosca* starring Leontyne Price, Plácido Domingo and Sherrill Milnes, along with *Le nozze di Figaro* with Michele Pertusi, Karita Mattila and Lucio Gallo and *Salome* with Eva Marton.



### **Raymond Lewenthal: Complete RCA & Columbia Album Collection**

In his own words, Raymond Lewenthal was an "octave thrower, long-distance arpeggiator and general producer of volcanic rumbles." This hugely talented, extroverted pianist was also a key figure in the revival of a great deal of 19th-century piano music, most of all that of Charles-Valentin Alkan. Sony Classical's new 6-CD collection of Lewenthal's complete recordings for RCA and Columbia Masterworks, available on October 25, 2019, celebrates this maverick pianist's recorded legacy, with three LPs of material specially remastered from the analogue tapes. Its release comes thirty years after Lewenthal's death in November 1988.

Both a showman and a scholar, Lewenthal was born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1923, working as a child movie actor in Hollywood before beginning formal piano study at the age of 15. His teachers included Olga Samaroff and Alfred Cortot. Though his early career in the US flourished after a debut with Dmitri Mitropoulos and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1948, he withdrew from public performance a few years later after being attacked in Central Park. By the time he returned to concertizing in the 1960s, he had become a champion of Alkan's, much of whose music he edited for publication.

His enthusiasm for obscure Romantic repertoire was not limited to Alkan. He revived Adolf von Henselt's little-known Piano Concerto in F minor, a spectacularly difficult work, recording it with Sir Charles Mackerras and the LSO alongside his own version of Liszt's *Totentanz*. "The sheer virtuoso bravura of it all is dazzling", wrote *Gramophone*. With the same orchestra and conductor Eleazar de Carvalho, he also recorded Anton Rubinstein's Fourth Piano Concerto in D minor, and the dazzling finale to Franz Xaver Scharwenka's Second Concerto in C minor.

Two albums of Alkan's solo piano music are a fitting tribute to Lewenthal's obsession; they include his *Symphonie*, *Grande Sonatine* and many studies and miniatures. "Raymond Lewenthal measures up to Alkan's fearsome demands with expressive gusto", wrote *BBC Music Magazine* – one visionary eccentric pianist channeling the spirit of another. Lewenthal also recorded the *Hexaméron*, a work written collaboratively by five pianists and put together by Liszt, and – now receiving its first CD release – Liszt's *Réminiscences de Norma* ("a revelation" – *Gramophone*).

One final CD shows another, no less significant side to Lewenthal: several recordings of him discussing works collected here at the keyboard, again never before released on disc. This vital, vivacious communicator – "a kind of Romantic idol," *The New York Times* remarked – still has a lot to say to us today, about a repertoire that continues to benefit from his passionate advocacy.