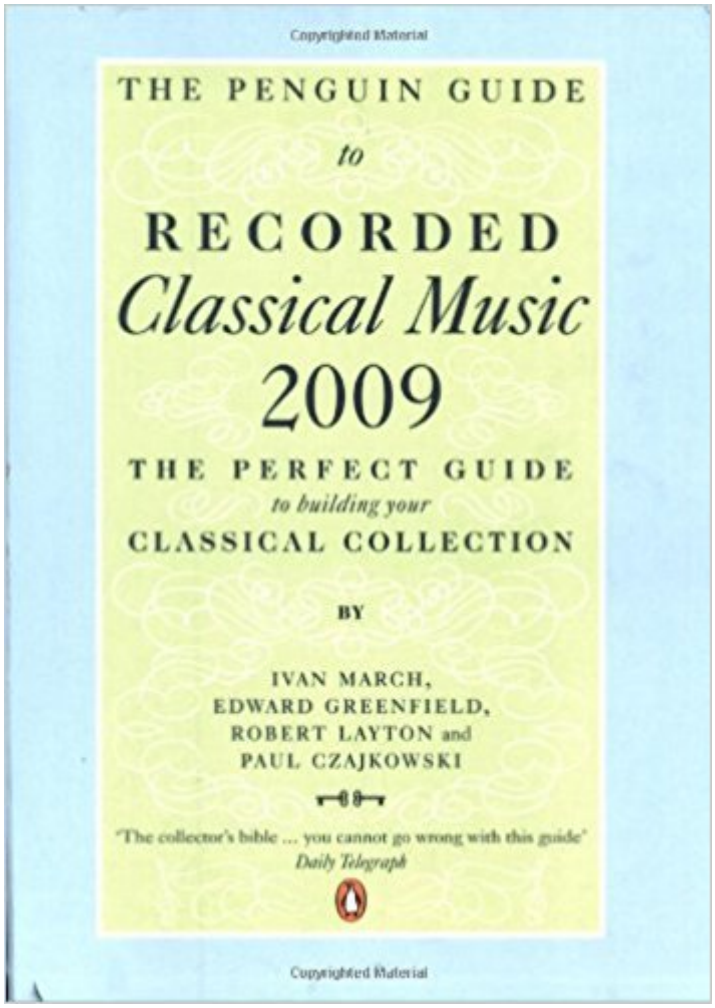
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The Penguin Guide To Recorded Classical Music 2009



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Synopsis

This completely revised edition of the Penguin Guide reviews the major classical recordings issued and reissued over the past five decades, many of which dominate the catalogue because of their sheer excellence, irrespective of recording dates. More comprehensive than ever before and now updated annually, it indicates key recordings on CD, DVD and enhanced SACD, including those in surround sound. If you want the finest available version of any major classical work (including DVDs of opera and ballet) you will find it listed and assessed in these pages. Ranging from long-established recordings to the newest releases, the latest edition represents the cream of the international repertoire and has all the information you need to select the finest classical music available.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Indispensable, illuminating and comprehensive The Times An indispensable and comprehensive survey. Anyone who wants to make sense of all the rival versions of classical music available on CD will find a great deal of illumination The Times More valuable than ever to any serious collector of classical music Wall Street Journal The bible for the discriminating record collector Daily Telegraph

Ivan March is a well-known lecturer, journalist and writer in the world of recorded music. He lives in London, SW6. Edward Greenfield was for forty years on the staff of the Guardian and is a regular

BBC broadcaster. He lives in London, E1. Robert Layton is a journalist and broadcaster. He lives in London, NW6. Paul Czajkowski is a music writer. He lives in London.

I am making my comments short and to the point.Except for the Penguin Guide 2010 Edition, which is expensive, you can pick up used copies from 2009 all the way back to 1988 at very reasonable prices. .The advantage of the older Editions is that they review CD's that are now out of print, but still sought after by classical music buyers. Those reviews disappear in newer Editions.If you must have the thinned down 2010 Edition of the iconic Penguin Classical Music Guide, I strongly suggest you buy the 2008 and 2009 Editions as a supplement. Especially the 2008 Edition. That has virtually everything important the 2010 does, plus much, much more. I know the 2010 Edition has new reviews. But, not enough to offset what was taken out. Not even close. The 2009 Edition is also a worthy choice.Very poor effort by Penguin Books.

I purchased this as a supplement to my 1996 Penguin Guide. That volume was awesome because it spanned classical CD releases from their inception through the publication date. This 2009 edition falls short. It appears to cover only those discs still in current release as of 2009. That means a lot of deletions, as labels have trimmed their offerings voraciously in the mp3 era. We live in an age where many releases from the '90's are still widely available in places like , yet Penguin neglects them because some major label has deleted them. What Penguin needs to do is make all their evaluations over the years available digitally. That would be a guide worth having. Skip this book. You can find better advice here on and on the internet in other review forums.

The loss of the Penquin Guide, whose last full output was 2010 was heralding the end of the CD era. While these Gramaphone critics were not always completely without bias (preferring English Interpreters) the loss of their commentary was a great blow to the world of classical music. Any paperbacks obtainable from 1990's to 2010 are worth owning. The 2008 and 2004 output is a treasure and may still be available used in excellent condition. Note that there are the main books and the yearbooks, better to stick with the full versions. There are also Bargain Guides (meaning CD issues that were less than full price) are also worth having as they covered many albums over many years.

For serious classical music lovers The Penguin Guide is a must have.You will not find this guide in the shops anymore, so take your chanceto purchase a used or new copy on for a nice

price.Altough you can find everything you want about classical composersand their works on the internet, this guide still is of great value andvery usefull as a reference book.You will find information about the finest performances of a particularwork of a composer, a price indication of the CD/DVD and a lot more.The used copy that I ordered was in good condition and I received iteven sooner than the estimated delivery date.Overall I am very satisfied with this item and warmly recommend it to all thelovers and listeners to classical music.

As only a mid-level classical music fan, I have found this guide to be highly useful over the years as I have assembled a small library of recordings.Not only have this guide's listing helped steer me toward better recordings, but also reading the listings has introduced me to the magic of all sorts of performers and conductors I was not previously aware of.No doubt there are great recordings of things that are not listed in here, as the ongoing comparisons with the Gramophone Guide are happy to point out. That problem cuts both ways.But if you are an average enthusiast of classical music like me, you can bet that any recording listed in here is going to be a worthy expenditure, and that means this book is money well spent.Now if only they could make it into a web/iPhone app so a user could search for and easily find all recommended recordings by a certain performer, for example. And to have all that in my iPhone the next time I unexpectedly decide to start shopping...

I could not understand why some reviewers complained about authors not covering enough Americans. Classical music was "invented" by Europeans. It is only naturally that so many great artists and recordings came from Europe. Even the most famous ones in USA were "imports", such as Rubinstein, Horowitz, Toscanini, Walter, Szell who were born outside of the States and did not receive music education in the States. This book does a great job reviewing thousands of recordings in detail. I compared my 1990 version to 2010 and found many updates. I do not think DVD should be part of it. Unfortunately, this book has been replaced by a quite brief and incomplete review of 1000 great recordings. I am going to miss it.

An indispensible reference to classical music by cricics of the Gramaphone Magazine. It first came out in the 60's covering only records, later it also covered cassette tapes, and in the early 1980's covered CD's. It all but vanished after the last full edition in 2010, which heralded the end of the CD era (Which will never end for me until I no longer exist).

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