
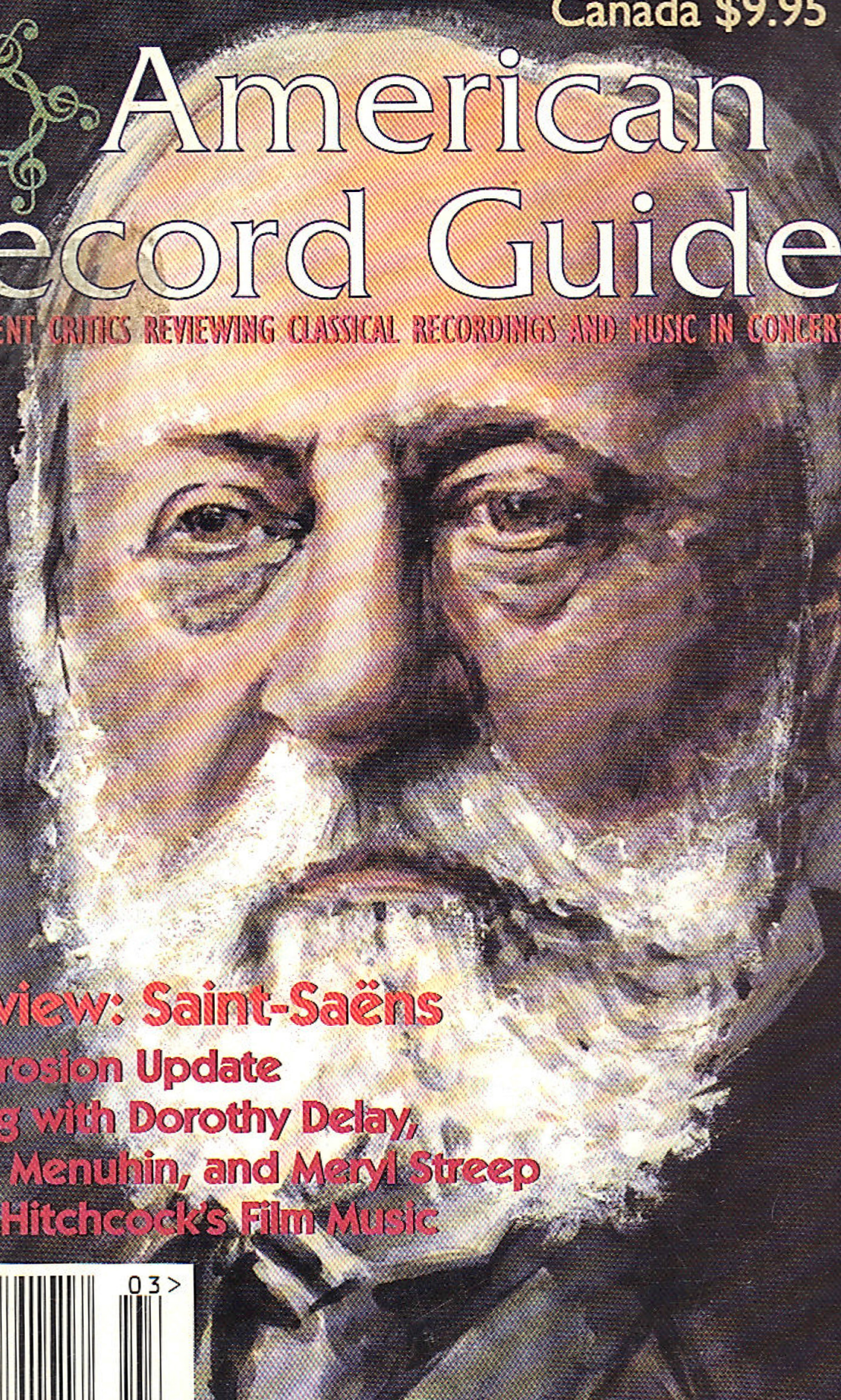


March/April 2000

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American Record Guide

INDEPENDENT CRITICS REVIEWING CLASSICAL RECORDINGS AND MUSIC IN CONCERT

Overview: Saint-Saëns

CD Corrosion Update

**Fiddling with Dorothy Delay,
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Alfred Hitchcock's Film Music



NIELSEN: *Violin Concerto; Flute Concerto*

Adele Anthony, v; Lisa Hansen, fl; New York Scandia Symphony/Dorrit Matson

Centaur 2442 (Qualiton) 53 minutes

I thought this would be easy to dismiss: a small record label, a pick-up orchestra, an unknown conductor, and two unknown soloists. But it is amazingly good!

My Favorite Violin Concerto recordings are both by Arve Tellefsen (Jan/Feb 1991), and I listened to this one with the Virgin Tellefsen in the other CD player, switching back and forth. Loyalties die hard, but I think I may prefer this one. Adele Anthony does everything right. The orchestra is right there with all the support she needs. The sound is gorgeous—maybe even better than Virgin's, and that is very good. Tempos are a little faster, but Nielsen never really does anything big and lush, so it makes no difference. Besides, this was recorded in Trinity Church (Wall Street, I assume) in New York, and the reverberation makes the orchestra seem bigger.

That is especially so in the Flute Concerto, where the orchestra has more to do. I'm not fond of it, so I may not be your best guide, but again I think this is a wonderful recording.

Who are these people? The violinist is Australian and won the 1996 Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition. Orchestras in the USA should hire her to play this work. It's great music, with plenty of audience appeal, and no one plays it better. The flutist is a Juilliard graduate and has been principal with the Mexico City Philharmonic. The conductor is Danish and got most of her education in Copenhagen. These are three terrific musicians, and they are fortunate that the engineers did not betray them.

It's true that there are single discs with all three Nielsen concertos (the other one is for clarinet). It is also true that people like James Galway have recorded the Flute Concerto. But if you love the Violin Concerto as I do and want an excellent Flute Concerto recording with it that you can listen to some of the time (less often than the Violin Concerto), this seems like a good buy. It is quite stupid to buy records by the name of the artist; unknown people like this are often just as good, even better. But you know that; that's why you read ARG.

VROON