



# CRITICS' CHOICE


Christmas is a time for giving – so which of the year's releases would our critics wrap up and place under the tree?

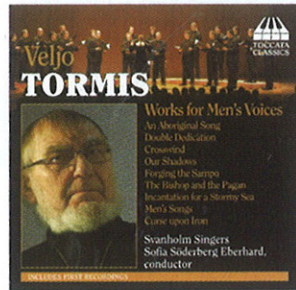
Dejan Lazić's  
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ROB COWAN

## Rob Cowan

Here the pairing of Scarlatti and Bartók shows them both as skilled miniaturists whose list of ingredients included wit, novelty and visceral excitement. Pianist Dejan Lazić's "pick'n'mix" formula throws the listener from one delicious flavour to another.

Channel Classics ©   
CCSSA23407 (4/08)



## David Fanning

Tossing a coin between the Belcea Quartet's supremely colourful Bartók and the Svanholm Singers in choral works by Estonian composer Veljo Tormis, I settle on the latter.

Tormis is wonderfully inventive, and his exponents are brilliant.  
Toccata © TOCC0073 (6/08)

## Richard Whitehouse

This Joe Cutler CD was a surprise, its range and depth making him not merely a provocative composer but a substantial one. And the performances are a treat. The best thing to come out of Neasden since Twiggy?  
NMC © NMCD134 (9/08)



Could Joe  
Cutler be  
the best  
thing to  
come out  
of Neasden  
since Twiggy?

RICHARD  
WHITEHOUSE