



2009's Best (Mostly) 'New Music,' From Q2

by Nadia Sirota



December 1, 2009 from WNYC - In classical-music terms, "New Music" is always complicated to define. Yes, it's the current manifestation of the classical tradition, but these days, the edges of so-called New Music tend to bleed into the realms of ambient music, indie rock, jazz and even folk. Criteria for determining what constitutes newness in classical music are similarly slippery.

Therefore, in creating a list of the top new classical-music releases of 2009, I've decided that egregious cheating regarding style and time period is allowed; let's leave it at that. Simply put, these are the records from the past year that I cannot stop playing.

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...5. Phil Kline

Artist: Phil Kline [Lionheart and ETHEL]

Album: John the Revelator

Song: John the Revelator, a mass for 6 voices, string quartet & organ [The Man Who Knows Misery]

A moving and appealing take on a Latin mass setting that's been injected with Phil Kline's surprising selection of bonus texts. The piece and performance (including the string quartet known as Ethel and the vocal group Lionheart) navigate a wide emotional range successfully and satisfyingly...