

reviews

Star power: Counter-tenor Andreas Scholl and sopranos Barbara Bonney and Darynn Zimmer shine on three new discs



★★★★

Oiseau Bleu: Songs by Massenet, Delage, Beydts and Gounod

Darynn Zimmer, soprano; Gaït Sirguey, piano; Solisti New York, Ransom Wilson, cond.
(New Albion 078CD. TT:54:18)

This imaginatively crafted recital of rarely heard French mélodies places Darynn Zimmer in the forefront of emerging young American sopranos. She brings remarkable agility, stylistic elegance, and a sure command of the language to gems like Louis Beydts' voluptuous *Chansons Pour les Oiseaux*, and the charming Massenet selections. Crowning the collection are three exquisite song cycles with chamber orchestra by Maurice Delage, scored with prismatic delicacy and breathtakingly performed by soloists and ensemble alike. My only quibble is that the close mixing in the piano-accompanied songs tends to amplify the singer's breathing. Still and all, Zimmer has resurrected some unjustly neglected repertoire in a debut disc of unusual distinction. — *Jed Distler*