

June-July 2007

Eyes on the prizes

Awards ceremonies, in London at least, are moving out of their traditional place in a hotel ballroom. The BBC Music Magazine Awards ceremony took place aboard the *MV Silver Sturgeon* as it sailed up the River Thames, while the Classical Brits hired out the Royal Albert Hall. At the BBC Music Magazine Awards on 11 April, Rumanian pianist Luiza Borac (below) won the Instrumental category for her re-recording of Enescu's works for solo piano. The jury 'vehemently recommended' the recording, adding 'Luiza Borac illuminates some extraordinary, richly inventive piano music with subtle but absolute mastery.' Borac's disc was recorded for the Avie label; this year's ten awards all went to recordings made by independent labels.

The major labels did rather better a few weeks later at the Classical Brit awards at a packed Royal Albert Hall. EMI Classics scooped five awards, including Instrumentalist of the Year for Leif Ove Andsnes. With Paul McCartney receiving the Album of the Year award for his *Ecce cor Meum*, Sting as one of the nominees and the likes of the Duchess of Cornwall presenting awards, it was quite a glamorous evening.



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