

Silver anniversary



I lower the stylus onto a recording of Tchaikovsky's *Cossack Dance* from *Mazeppa* played by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. This lively performance is both joyful and sprightly and the sound is delightfully realistic in my listening room, highlighting just how good a test this Telarc LP is for a full orchestra.

The Tchaikovsky piece is followed by a superb recording of Prokofiev's *Symphony No.1, The Classical* played by Vladimir Ashkenazy and the London Symphony Orchestra. I am greeted with a full sound that is both expressive and open. All of the instruments from the orchestra seem well balanced, although the strings can at times appear a touch over bright during the crescendos.

But what strikes me most is the timing and tempo, which are absolutely spot on.

Next up on the platter is some Latin-American trumpet and trombone music in the form of Herb Alpert And The Tijuana Brass playing *Our Day Will Come* – an excellent recording on the Pye label. The trumpet consistently provides a real test for any cartridge and I'm pleased to note that it sounds well balanced and clear here. But what strikes me most is the timing and tempo, which are absolutely spot on.

For a slice of jazz, I turn to a CBS recording of the Dave Brubeck Quartet playing *Vento Fresco*, or *Cool Wind* if you prefer. Hi-hats are of particular note, being delightfully crisp and fast. The double bass is taut and full and balances perfectly with the piano, which tunefully carries you along until the melodic and clear saxophone takes over.

Conclusion

The Classic is certainly a sophisticated turntable and its timeless elegance is brought right up to date by the carbon fibre construction of the tonearm. This arm matches well with the supplied Ortofon 2M Silver cartridge and sound-wise it turns in a great performance that's particularly at home with vocals and jazz. All in all, The Classic is a perfect way to mark a 25th anniversary

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY



LIKE: Balanced sound; suspended sub-plinth

VALUE FOR MONEY



DISLIKE: Earth connection behind cartridge; platter needs to be removed to change speed

BUILD QUALITY



WE SAY: A sophisticated deck combining elegance with a modern build

FEATURES



OVERALL

