

**PETER PLANYAVSKY**  
Biography

Peter Planyavsky was born in Vienna in 1947 and became a student of Anton Heiller at the University for Music and Drama when he was 12. He graduated with the Master's Diploma in Organ (1966) and the Diploma in Church Music (1967). He then worked for one year in the workshop of a major Austrian organ builder, and for another year he served as Abbey Organist at Schlägl, Austria.

In 1969, Mr. Planyavsky was appointed Cathedral Organist at St. Stephan's Cathedral, Vienna. From 1983 until 1990 he was the Cathedral's Music Director with responsibility for choral and organ programs, which in Austria are traditionally held as two separate positions. In 2004, he decided to terminate his affiliation with the Cathedral.

Since 1980, Mr. Planyavsky has been Professor for Organ and Improvisation at the University for Music and Drama in Vienna, also functioning as Head of the Church Music Department from 1996 to 2003.

Peter Planyavsky also undertakes a full schedule as a recitalist, a coach in workshops and master classes, and a member of juries. He has toured North America, Japan, Australia, South Africa and most of Europe, and has recorded many CDs and records.

Mr. Planyavsky has won several prizes and awards, most recently the Federal Austrian Prize for Music, awarded to him for his collected compositions. He has composed extensively for choir, organ and orchestra, with primary emphasis on liturgical works.

As a conductor, Peter Planyavsky has performed the Bach *Mass in B Minor*, the Duruflè *Requiem*, the great Haydn masses, and other major sacred works. He now concentrates more on concertos for organ and orchestra (Heiller, Guilmant, Jongen, Rheinberger, Saint-Saens and others), having conducted several premier performances in Austria of concertos by Horatio Parker, Jean Guillou, Jean Langlais, Howard Hanson and Leo Sowerby.

*Current as of September 2007*

## **PETER PLANYAVSKY**

### Press Notices

#### **CONCERT REVIEWS**

**LOS ANGELES** “There was only good news at Peter Planyavsky’s recital last night ... Planyavsky gave notice of secure technique and superb musicality. Easing into and out of phrases, he set off contrapuntal ideas and delineated formal structures with never the slightest interruption of the basic rhythmical flow.”

*The Los Angeles Times*

**CLEVELAND** “PLANYAVSKY IS BRILLIANT IN FIRST OF ORGAN SERIES” – “... he shaped his interpretations with skillful registration, clean articulation and vital rhythm.”

*The Plain Dealer*

**TORONTO** “The real excitement was found in the improvisations. ... Aside from the richness of sound, clarity of theme and the imaginative treatment of it, the exercise was remarkable for the player’s ability to extricate himself from the maze he had built.”

*Globe and Mail*

**BIRMINGHAM** “Beyond (and more important than) that was his marvelous rhythmic discipline.”

*The Birmingham News*

**EDMONTON** “PLANYAVSKY LEAVES THEM BREATHLESS” “... Planyavsky ... also displayed a formidable maturity in one so relatively young – in a complete lack of ostentation in such a gifted recitalist and in a relentless adherence to the best interests of the music he was playing.”

*Edmonton Journal*

**PORTLAND, OR** “Planyavsky plays cleanly and with great sensitivity ... a gifted improviser.”

*The Oregonian*

**VAN NUYS** “... abundant technique, rhythmic precision and vitality, and clarity of phrasing ...”

*The Los Angeles Times*

**TOKYO** “... Planyavsky’s performance is characterized in his superb flexibilities of rhythmic feeling and the appropriate clarity in the sense of sonority.”

*Yomimuri News*

**BRISBANE** “In everything he showed complete command of his resources, a brilliant technique and a keen and sensitive appreciation of tone color.”

*The Courier Mail*

**SYDNEY** “He is a worthy successor to the many illustrious musicians who have held posts in that city (Vienna) in earlier times ... These were represented in music which amply displayed an abundant ability on the part of the composer, organist and the new Dutch organ.”

*Sydney Morning Herald*

**HAMBURG** “Planyavsky’s palette of sound is differentiated and many-coloured. He devised variations on *Veni creator spiritus* and other chorales no less imaginatively than on the spiritual ‘*Joshua fit the battle of Jericho.*’ Even a twelve-tone theme caused him no problems. Using sumptuous harmonies he brilliantly drew hidden structural elements out of the chromatic row. This organist should be invited to return soon!”

*Die Welt*

**KREFELD** “... a speculative as well as spectacular organist with an original and highly individual personal style. This was clearly evident in the style of playing favored by him, in which minute working-out of intricate detail and clearly audible voice-weaving – made possible by his stupendous technique – were adopted as basic elements of his interpretation.”

*Rheinische Post*

## **RECORDING REVIEWS**

“His dedication is absolute; his playing is practically an extension of Liszt’s own personality ... Planyavsky’s integrity and devotion redeem the musical platitudes.”

*The Gramophone*

“This is organ playing par excellence. Peter Planyavsky puts heart and soul into these pieces, and the force of his conviction carries you with him all the way.”

*The News (Portsmouth, UK)*

“More organ virtuosity comes from Argo. ... Peter Planyavsky brings immense panache to bear on the music and the recording is clean and powerful.”

*Cambridge Evening News (UK)*

“Planyavsky’s playing – as well as his intellectual piloting – never becomes dull, seems effortless, without strain or cramping. In my opinion, especially the *Missa improvisata* – with its incorporation of various cantus firmi – is the most successful attempt to capture improvisation on a phonograph record for a long time.”

*Musik und Kirche*

“Planyavsky produces music that is shot through with a kind of dark sincerity, an intellectual integrity that gives the forms a peculiar quality of depth.”

*Organists’ Review*

**PETER PLANYAVSKY**  
Discography

**SOLO ORGAN**

Johannes Brahms, *Das Orgelwerk* (Im Rahmen der Gesamtaufnahme der Werke von Johannes Brahms) Organ: Grossen Saal des Wiener Konzerthauses.  
*Deutsche Grammophon*

(Augeswählte) *Orgelwerke von Franz Liszt* (Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen; Trauerode; Overture "Ein feste Burg" nach Otto Nicolai; Angelus, Consolation.)  
Organ: Stiftskirche Melk  
*Argo ZRG 798*

*Orgelwerke von J. S. Bach, Nicolas Clerambault, Paul Hofhaimer und Georg Böhm*  
Organ: Tamagawa College, Japan. (Erscheint demnächst.)  
*Trio Records, Tokyo*

*Orgelmusik aus dem Wiener Biedermeier Werke* von Ambros Rieder, Karl Czerny, Johann Schiedermayer, Franz Schubert, Simon Sechter, Joseph Pfeifter und Johann Georg Albrechtsberger. Organ: Pfarrkirche St. Paul, Vienna-Döbling.  
*Preiser Records, Vienna SPR 135 004*

Anton Heiller, *Das gesamte Orgelwerk, Vol. III*: Fantaisia super "Salve regina", "Ecce lignum crucis"; In Festo Corporis Christi; Kleine Partita über "Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort"; Partita "es ist ein Ros entsprungen"; Orgelsatz "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen".  
Organ: Neuen Dom zu Linz, Austria  
*Musica Viva, Bucholz*

Anton Heiller, *Das gesamte Orgelwerk, Vol. V*: Präludium und Fuge A-Dur; Zwei Satze über "Jesu, meine Freude"; Partita "Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland": Choralbearbeitungen zum Dänischen Gesangbuch; Choralvorspiel "Verleih uns Frieden".  
Organ: Pfarrkirche St. Paul, Vienna-Döbling  
*Musica Viva, Buchholz*

Camille Saint-Saens. I: Fantaisie Des-Dur; Praeludium und Fuge H-Dur; Marche heroique (arr. A. Guilmant). II. Improvisationen über Themen aus "Karneval der Tiere".  
Organ: Abteikirche Hamborn, Duisburg  
*Motette-Ursina, Wiesbaden, M 11000*

*Orgelwerke von J.S. Bach*. Toccata und Fugue d-Moll; Praludium und Fuge C-Dur BWV 547; Praeludium und Fuge Es-Dur; Fuga g-Moll; Choralvorspiele "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" / "Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten" BWV 647 / "Jesus bleibet meine Freude" / "Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend" BWV 655  
*Camerata Records, Tokyo 32MD32*

Felix Mendelssohn, Works for Organ (complete)  
Organ: Perchtoldsdorf Parish Church. 3 discs  
*Motette Ursina*

Anton Heiler, "Ecce lignum crucis".  
Organ: Kirche St. Ursula, Vienna.  
*Österreichische Phonotheek, OPH 10021*

Anton Heiller, "Tanz-Toccata". (with Albert de Klerk, Marie-Claire Alain, Arie Keijzer and  
Johann Th. Lemckert.) Organ: Grote of St. Laurenskerk, Rotterdam  
*Siegro, 9*

Hans Buchner, Recordare; W.A. Mozart, Andante KV 616; Anton Heiller, Kleine Partita "Erhalt  
uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort". (with Josef Bucher and Piet Kee.)  
Internationale Orgeltage, Dusseldorf 1978.  
*Teldec, 66.21732*

#### **SOLO WITH ORCHESTRA**

P. I.Tschaikowsky, Manfred-Symphonie. Vienna Philharmonic, Lorin Maazel, conductor  
*Decca, SXL 6562*

Gustav Mahler, Symphonie Nr. VIII. Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Georg Solti, conductor.  
*Decca/Set 534-535*

L. v. Beethoven, Missa solennis. Vienna Philharmonic, Karl Bohm, conductor.  
*Deutsche Grammophon, 270080*

Joseph Haydn, Kleine Orgelsolomesse. Vienna Philharmonic, Karl Munchinger, conductor.  
*Decca, KC 0171*

#### **CHAMBER MUSIC**

Antonin Dvorak, Bagatellen für Streichtrio und Harmonium. Vienna Philharmonic Quintett.  
*Decca, SDD 487*

**PETER PLANYAVSKY**  
Compositions

**ORGAN WORKS**

- +Sonata I
- +Sonata II
- +Veni, quaeso, veni Sancte Spiritus
- +Perpetuum mobile
- +Fantasia in memoriam A.H. (Anton Heiller)

**ORGAN AND VOICE**

- +Two Psalms (23 and 39)
- +Hanna und Eli
- +Die vier Männer im Feuerofen
- +Two Sacred Songs

**WORKS FOR CHOIR AND ORGAN/ORCHESTRA**

II Canticum di Fratres Sole [St. Francis' Song]  
(choir, soprano, positiv organ)

+Missa Viennensis, 1972 [Commissioned by the Vienna Boy Choir] (boy choir, organ)

Totenmesse [Requiem] (choir, organ)

An Anthem of Praise [for Christ United Methodist Church of Rochester, MN] (choir, soprano, organ)

Magnificat (choir, brass ensemble)

+Two Pieces for the Passion [Commissioned by the Cathedral of Graz, Austria] (choir, 7 instruments)

The Lord's Prayer [Commissioned by the German Catholic Convention] (choir, congregation, brass ensemble)

Papal Credo and Sanctus [Commissioned by the Diocese of Gurk for the visit of the Pope, 1989] (choir, congregation, symphonic brass orchestra)

Papal Halleluja [Commissioned by the Diocese of Vienna for the visit of the Pope, 1989] (choir, cantor, congregation, symphonic brass orchestra)

Various anthems, settings, psalms

+Salve regina (boy choir, organ)

## MISCELLANEOUS

- +Danse triste (harpsichord)
- +Quatre piece (two harpsichords)
- +Three serious talks (harpsichord, positiv organ)
- +Concerto for Organ and Strings
- +No transcriptions (and four, at that!) (trumpet and organ)
- Three Miniatures for Pedal Recorder (for one player, playing recorder and organ pedal)

## PARODY

- Der zufriedengestellte Autobus [The Satisfied Bus] by P. P. Bach  
(orchestra, choir, soloist)
- Die Schaffnerin aus Liebe by W. A. P. Mozart  
(Singspiel for full orchestra, choir, soloists)
- Ankunnftssymphonie by J. P. Haydn [The Arrival Symphony]  
(full orchestra) - all three works commissioned by Austrian Radio Corp., ORF
  
- Four Pieces for Trumpet Clock [W. A. P. Mozart]

+ published by Doblinger, Vienna-Munich