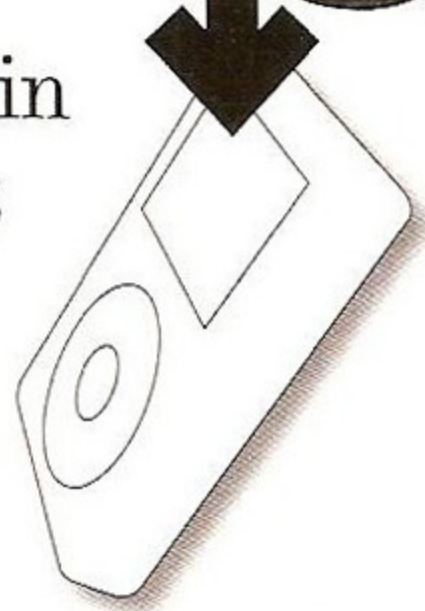


Tune surfing

James Jolly on a French website dedicated to Samuel Barber, the Berlin Phil's Beethoven and Sibelius month; and a return to Hyperion's site



Amid all the flurry of attention directed at Chopin and Mahler this year (neither of whom frankly needs the extra exposure an anniversary brings), spare a thought for Samuel Barber who was born 100 years ago in 1910 (and died in 1981). If you like beautiful melodies, subtle, elegant orchestration and a real mastery of mid-size forms (though he was quite capable of working on a larger canvas), then few 20th-century composers deliver more – and with more charm – than Barber. After a period when an admiration for Barber's music was something at best noted with a sneer, it's now – thankfully – okay to come out as a Barberphile!

A website from, slightly surprisingly, France does Barber proud in this, his centenary year. Created by Pierre Brévignon, author of a forthcoming book on Barber, samuelbarber.fr/eng/welcome, contains a nicely succinct biography (also downloadable as a PDF), a chronological work list and a work list by genre, a discography that divides the interpreters into the "Founders" (Leontyne Price, John Browning and so on), the "Heirs"

(David Zinman, Michael Tilson Thomas et al) and the "Young Generation" (including the splendid Barber series on Naxos conducted by Marin Alsop) – and it's impressively up-to-date. There's also a listing of performances of Barber's music around the world from which I was slightly surprised to learn that *Night Flight* only received its French premiere in January 2009 (the information is a tad out-of-date here!).

There's also information about Capricorn, the French Samuel Barber Society, an organisation established in February 2009 in Paris by Pierre Brévignon, with five honorary members: composers John Corigliano and Nicolas Bacri, musicologist Henry-Louis de la Grange, radio producer Anne-Charlotte Rémond and conductor Jean-Pierre Marty.

Incidentally, if you are an admirer of Barber's music look out for our own Peter Dickinson's *Samuel Barber Remembered: A Centenary Tribute* due from Rochester University Press later this spring. As a tribute in Barber Year, my download choice this month is a guide to essential Barber recordings available digitally.

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Welcome

Welcome to the first French/English website entirely dedicated to the American composer **Samuel Barber (1910-1981)**. Here you will find:

- Details of the **current concerts** connected to Barber, throughout the world ;
- A brief **biography** of the composer of the world-famous *Adagio for strings* ;
- A **chronological and a topical catalogue** of Barber's works ;
- A review of the best **recordings**, past and present, available to the public ;
- The official page of **Capricorn, the French Samuel Barber Society** ;
- A number of **links** to find out more about the life and works of the composer.

Last update : don't miss the first concert of the Centennial Barber in Paris : *Excursions, Fugue & Interludes*, a piano recital by Lilia Boyadjieva. [\[Book your tickets\]](#).
To celebrate the New Year, **50 concerts dates** in January and a brand **new recording** of the *Violin Concerto* by Israeli virtuoso Vadim Gluzman !

Any questions, suggestions or comments? associationcapricorn@gmail.com.
How to **become a member** of the Samuel Barber Society or **make a donation** ?

2010 is Samuel Barber's anniversary year