

THE STARS • THE REVIEWS • THE MUSIC

CLASSIC *f*M

MARCH 2004

A PLATINUM CD AT JUST 17...

Hayley Westenra

Meet the chart-topping soprano with the God-given voice in a million

INSIDE THE MIND OF RACHMANINOV

The 'six-foot scowl' with a heart of gold

SECRET CONCERT HALLS REVEALED

Discover musical gems all over Britain – we tell you where

NEW YORK, NEW YORK!

The music lover's guide to classical's capital city



THE TALENTED DANIEL HOPE

Katie Derham meets the Brit fiddler to watch



MARCH 2004



Hot Property Hottest new mezzo, Katherine Jenkins **26**



Composer: Sergei Rachmaninov Russia's greatest Romantic **28**



Death and the Maestro How the great composers met their maker **34**



Katie Meets... Violinist Daniel Hope **36**



Cover Story

Hayley Westenra's debut album may be selling by the lorry-load, but she's not resting on her laurels

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'I figure I've been given this amazing opportunity and I really want to do my best'

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THE SCORE

Pick of the pops



1 HAYLEY WESTENRA

Read all about Hayley's incredible rise to stardom in our cover feature this month (p.20). Her debut album stays firmly at the top outselling both Bryn Terfel and Andrea Bocelli

THE CLASSICAL ALBUM CHART

Your complete guide to what's selling and what's coming



4 AMICI FOREVER

Currently promoting their album in the states, Amici stick in the top five



9 KATHLEEN FERRIER

One of the 20th century's greatest mezzos lives on in this tribute disc



17 RUSSELL WATSON

The popular tenor creeps back into the charts - Russell's new disc will be released this summer

Position	Title/Artist	Label/catalogue
1 (1)	Pure Hayley Westenra <i>She can't be stopped - Hayley's debut is still flying off the shelves</i>	Decca 475 330-2
2 (2)	Bryn Bryn Terfel <i>Not far behind - Bryn's album of famous opera arias and beautiful folksongs</i>	DG 414 703-2
3 (3)	Viaggio Italiano Andrea Bocelli <i>Reissue (with added tracks) of Bocelli's 1999 album - includes duet with Bryn</i>	Philips 478 131-0
4 (5)	The Opera Band Amici Forever <i>Opera is la cosa - there's strength in numbers...</i>	RCA Victor 82876 55882-2
5 (8)	Operatunity Winners Denise Leigh & Jane Gilchrist <i>ENO's opera competition winners produce an album of great talent</i>	EMI Classics 557 5942
6 (6)	Higher Aled Jones <i>Aled Jones' second album of hymn arrangements</i>	UCJ 989 557-9
7 (9)	Echoes - The Einaudi Collection Ludovico Einaudi <i>The Italian pianist who divides opinion with a 'best of' collection</i>	RMG 82876 50089-2
8 (4)	Ti adoro Luciano Pavarotti <i>Something for Eurovision; Pav gets all sentimental in the studio</i>	Decca 475 480-2
9 (10)	A Tribute Kathleen Ferrier <i>Celebrated mezzo soprano fitted with a disc of her famous moments</i>	Decca 475 078-2
10 NEW ENTRY	Lesley Garrett Gift collection <i>A set of previously-released Garrett recordings</i>	Solo Treasury NAXOS3001
11 (18)	Sacred Arias Andrea Bocelli <i>This 1999 disc is still a chart climber after almost five years</i>	Philips 462 600-2
12 (11)	Moving On Myleene Klass <i>Myleene sees up the classics playing the piano scantily clad</i>	UCJ 988 543-2
13 (14)	The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace Karl Jenkins <i>Karl Jenkins' anti-war choral work proves popular in these uncertain times</i>	Verano 473 410-2
14 (17)	Alod Aled Jones <i>Aled's first album as an adult still manages to squeeze into the top 20</i>	UCJ 980 028-1
15 (7)	So Deep is the Night Lesley Garrett <i>Lesley's latest operatic spectacular takes a tumble this month</i>	EMI Classics 557 6282
16 (12)	Vivaldi Nigel Kennedy <i>Part one of Nigel Kennedy's exploration of the Red Priest's concertos</i>	EMI Classics 557 6482
17 RE-ENTRY	Reprise Russell Watson <i>Back in the game - Russell sneaks in at number 17 prior to his new album</i>	Decca 473 390-2
18 (13)	Sentimento Andrea Bocelli <i>Andrea Bocelli's newest album is pushed down the chart by his two others</i>	Philips 473 430-2
19 NEW ENTRY	Great Classical Favourites 101 Strings Orchestra <i>Lots of serious works crammed into a bargain box set</i>	Ermine ZMFYCD010
20 RE-ENTRY	JS Bach - Sacred choral works Monteverdi Choir & Orch/Gardiner <i>John Eliot Gardiner's best-selling Bach series shoots back into the chart</i>	Acis 489 789-2



Hear all the new classical hits and catch the latest classical chart action with Mark Goodier and *Classic Countdown*, Saturday mornings 9-12 noon on Classic FM

Sneak preview

News of exciting discs out soon

As *Pop Idol* becomes but a distant memory, Pete Waterman is turning his skills to classical talent spotting. His latest discovery is **Duel**, a hot new violin duo



Violin duo Duel's debut disc is out now

featuring Greg Scott and Craig Owen. Set to challenge Bond with their dazzling playing and exciting arrangements of classical favourites, **Duel** will be our featured Hot Property next month. (Decca 473 999-2)

Christopher Robinson's final Naxos recording with the choir of **St John's College, Cambridge**, will be the next in the English Choral Music series, exploring the works of Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988). The excellent disc features two of his evening service settings, smaller choral works and the impressive, deeply moving *Crucifixus Pro Nobis*. (Naxos 8.555795)



Naxos celebrates Tavener's 60th

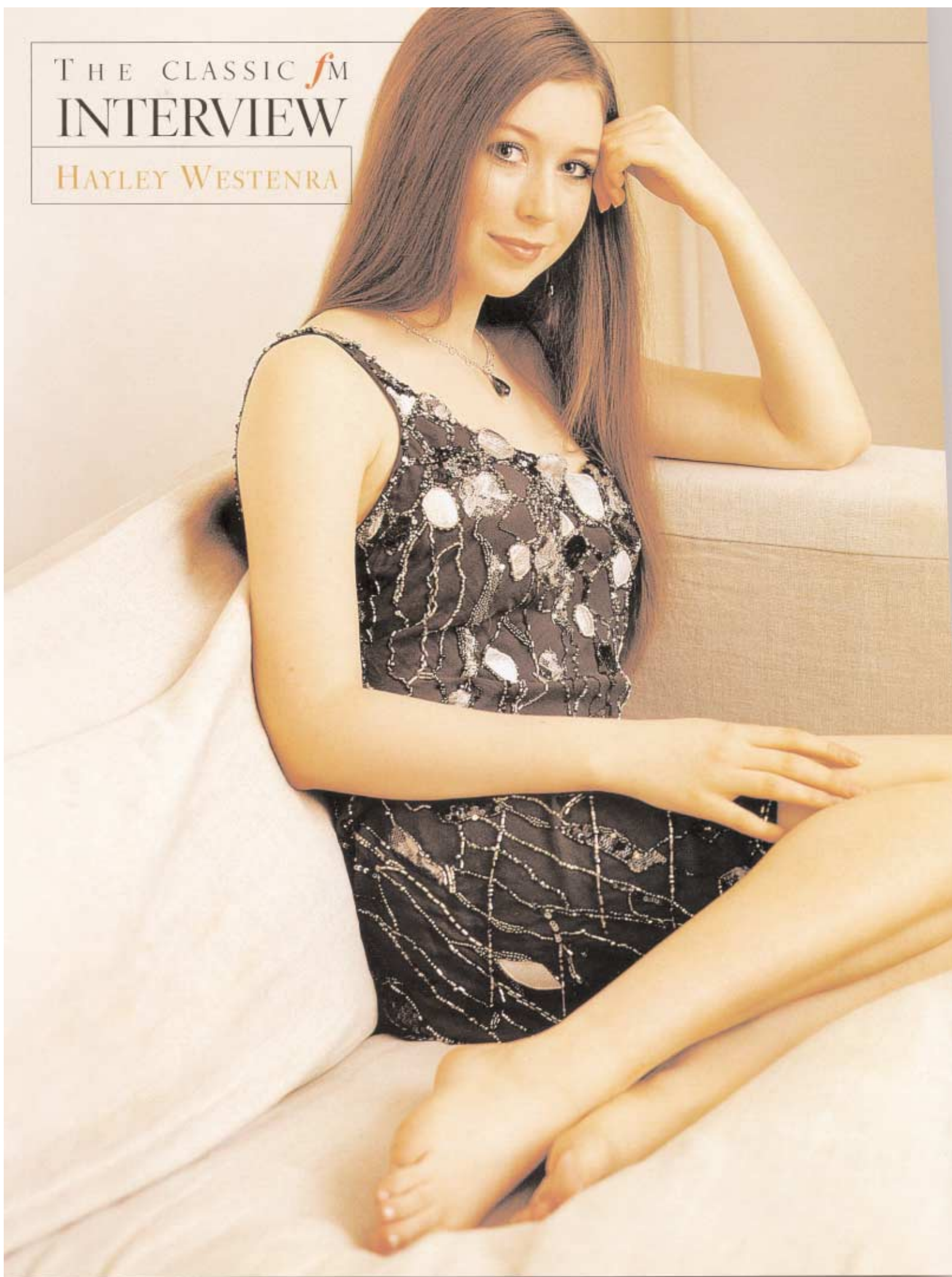
To celebrate **John Tavener's** 60th birthday, Naxos is releasing a 2-CD, 19-track portrait of his work including the touching

Prayer for the Heart sung by Icelandic pop singer, Björk. The set also includes an interview with Tavener as he reflects on his life's work so far. (Naxos 8.558152-53)

Those of you who missed the 1996 BBC film **Mozart in Turkey**, based on the opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, first time round will be delighted to hear of its reissue on DVD on the Opus Arte label. (OA 0891-D)

THE CLASSIC *f*M
INTERVIEW

HAYLEY WESTENRA





Just look at her now

Aged 10 she was busking down under in Christchurch, now she's singing for the Queen, is a bestselling artist and UNICEF's youngest ever ambassador; Hayley Westenra has come a long way

words by Warwick Thompson photographs by Alan Strutt

Y

ou've got to put in years of hard graft to be an overnight success, so they say. And it's never been truer than in the case of 17-year-old New Zealand soprano Hayley Westenra. When her disc *Pure* quickly shifted 400,000 copies on its release (it's since sold over 700,000 in the UK, becoming the best-selling debut album in the history of the classical charts, beating Charlotte Church, Russell Watson and Andrea Bocelli hands down) it seemed as if she had exploded on the scene with sudden, blinding brilliance from nothing – a sort of classical Big Bang. But when I meet this chatty, animated and friendly teenager in her Covent Garden flat it soon becomes clear that she's anything but unprepared for her success. She's already a star in her homeland, with two bestselling albums to her credit. She's been singing, dancing and acting in her home country since she was six, and having piano, violin and ballet lessons for even longer. And just in case you think she's another one of those untrained vocal miracles which pops up from time to time, it's worth knowing that she's been studying singing with Dame Malvina Major – New Zealand's 'other' great gonged international operatic soprano – for the last two years as well.

When I arrive at her flat, I find it's a minefield of open suitcases, clothes, hair products, discs and paperwork. Hayley and her mother live here when they're in London, but it feels like they haven't had much chance to settle in: and as it turns out, that's exactly the case. Hayley's in the middle of a punishing UK promotional tour, and has been whizzing up and down the country, accepting more and more gigs and more opportunities to talk about her album – hardly the kind of homebody lifestyle conducive to nest-building. And after a few moments' chatting, it's clear she's already a pro at the whole touring game: she's travelled to Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Los Angeles and New York (managing to squeeze in her Carnegie Hall

debut while she was there). And in the middle of it all, she casually mentions that she's studying for her British GCSEs, too. How on earth does she do it? 'You have to be very focused,' she admits. 'I always try to put my voice first. I can't stay out late because of the effect it might have on how I sing, and I mustn't eat dairy products – even though I love chocolate – and I still have to make sure there's always time for study on my schedule. But I figure I've been given this amazing opportunity and I really want to do my best.'

It seems like the sacrifices are paying off. After her recent show-stopping appearance singing a trio with José Carreras and Bryn Terfel at the Faenol Festival in Wales, the Spanish tenor complimented her on her beautiful voice. Her guest moments with Russell Watson and Aled Jones have repeatedly gone down a storm. And she's the youngest ever ambassador to UNICEF. Not bad for the girl from Christchurch, a city of just 450,000 people and 'at the bottom of the earth and miles away from anywhere', as her father once said.

For the first few years of her Antipodean success, Hayley's parents Gerald and Jill managed her career themselves, and they have only recently appointed Steve Abbott to be her manager. Why the wait? 'We read so many horror stories,' explains Jill, 'that we really wanted to wait until we were sure we had found the right person to be her manager. As soon as Hayley began to be famous we had plenty of offers, but our instincts told us to wait for the best person.' So Gerald pulled back from his gem-valuing business and Jill put her teaching work on hold to concentrate on looking after their daughter.

And it seems as though their caution has borne fruit. What with all the sudden exposure and media attention, I confess I wouldn't have been totally surprised to find that Hayley had a monstrous diva-size ego to match her diva-size talent. But that's certainly not the impression she gives. She's self-confident without being pushy, optimistic without being Pollyannaish, and seems remarkably well-grounded for a teenager in such an extraordinary situation.

Of course if she's to survive in this notoriously fickle business, she needs to be – as even a cursory glance at some of her predecessors shows. Charlotte Church may have started off as 'the voice of an angel', but she's more likely to be in the news these days for her relationship problems and litigation than for anything angelic. And if the diet pills spilling out of Britney Spears's bag are anything to go by, the trappings of teen fame seem to have taken their toll in that quarter, too. Hayley's response to these tales of adolescent woe is revealing and mature: 'At the end of the day it's the music that means the most. I want to keep working on my voice – that's the key thing, as opposed to image and all the rest. But I know it's easy to get caught up in it all.'

HAYLEY FACTFILE

- Hayley has perfect pitch – it was discovered at the age of six by a schoolteacher when she appeared in a Christmas school play

- She's the bestselling local artist of all time in New Zealand. Her debut album for Universal NZ went straight to No.1 in the Kiwi pop charts

- By the age of 11, she'd appeared in over 40 stage productions, sung on TV and in major concerts in her native NZ

- She also loves ballet dancing and has even performed with the Royal New Zealand Ballet

- Hayley performed three times for the Queen in three weeks, and also sang at a private dinner to welcome President Bush to the UK

- Her singing of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' at the Celtic v Bayern Munich Champions League game attracted a lot of attention in Germany; as a result the Germans decided to adopt the song as their anthem

- Hayley has just performed the end titles for *Mulan 2* for Disney and will be the lead artist in a new Disney blockbuster in 2004

- She has strong Celtic roots – her great-grandparents came from Wales and Scotland and her grandmother from Ireland

Those other singing prodigies

Three contenders past and present for the top-spot



ERNEST LOUGH (1911-2000)

Lough's voice won him a reputation as 'the most famous choirboy in the world'. His recording of *O for the Wings of a Dove*, made in 1927 when he was 16, became EMI's first million-selling classical single in 1962. After his voice broke, he continued to sing as a baritone with the Temple Choir in London almost until his death.



CHARLOTTE CHURCH (B.1986)

A real phenomenon who has already sold more than 10 million albums. She won her first contract after an appearance on a local TV talent show and cut her first disc at 13. There was a very public out-of-court settlement with her ex-manager in 2000, and squabbles with her parents. Can she get back on course? Time will tell.



BECKY TAYLOR (B.1988)

The most serious British contender for Church's crown. Becky was appearing in *Les Misérables* in London's West End when she was just seven, starring in *The Secret Garden* at 10 and signed an exclusive recording deal with EMI at 12. She's still in Charlotte's shadow – but with Church's recent troubles, who knows?

'I can't stay out late because of the effect it might have on how I sing, but I figure I've been given this amazing opportunity and I really want to do my best'



Record phenomenon: Hayley is the fastest selling debut classical artist in the UK – ever

I ask her if she's faced much pressure to dress a certain way – if her management or record company has tried to make her look sexy, for example? 'No, not at all. I dress in a way which I feel honestly reflects who I am,' she says. 'Quite down-to-earth, quite casual – just jeans and nice tops. When I first came to London, I felt like a complete country bumpkin!' But there must surely be a glamorous frock for those special performances? 'I wear dresses by the designer Jenny Packham. They're smart, not too provocative, nicely fitted, not too old for me, but they don't make me look frilly and young, either. It's just right for me.' Jill then reveals that they had a stroke of luck. 'Someone who used to work at Hayley's record company did the promotion for Jenny Packham's fashion show, and put us in touch. Hayley wore a Packham dress to the show, and then Jenny offered to lend Hayley dresses for her concerts.'

The more I talk to Hayley, the more I learn that lucky breaks seem to follow her around like lapdogs. Take the case of her singing teacher, Dame Malvina Major, for example. Dame Malvina, who still occasionally appears at Covent Garden, is one of New Zealand's greatest operatic stars and even shared a singing teacher with her contemporary Kiri Te Kanawa. 'From the age of nine, I was desperate to have a masterclass with Dame Malvina,' says Hayley, 'but the youth opera programme I was on thought I would get a chance at school, and my school couldn't arrange it. I kept missing out. And then I sang at a concert in Auckland conducted by her partner, and he asked if Malvina had heard me sing. I said she hadn't, and he told me to ring him as soon as we got back to Christchurch.' 'We went straight to the phone from the front door!' laughs Jill. 'So I got to sing for her,' continues Hayley, 'and a few days later she offered me lessons.'

How have lessons helped her? 'She's improved my technique, helped me to support my sound better. And she's shown me how to relax my jaw, keep the tension down. But the best thing about her is that she doesn't

'Dame Malvina's shown me how to relax my jaw, keep the tension down. But the best thing about her is that she doesn't force me into certain repertoire'

force me into certain repertoire – she really seems anxious to help me find my own voice. She appreciates all sorts of music.'

So opportunity often seems to knock for Hayley; but the thing about lucky breaks is that they most often go to people who are prepared for them. The story of Hayley's record deal illuminates this perfectly. Having appeared in countless shows and talent contests from the age of six, she began busking when she was 10. By 12 she had saved up NZ\$750 (about £250), which she spent on hiring a recording studio to make a demo. When demand grew for her disc, a family friend loaned her \$5000 to make 1000 copies. She sold lots, but cannily sent some to recording companies, and before you could say 'sliced bread' Universal Music NZ had signed her up without even seeing her. Her deal is now worth £3m. It all sounds as if a fairy godmother had waved a wand. But then how many other 12-year-old Cinderellas would have the gumption and drive to make their own demos, press 1000 copies



Hayley on Pure

Hayley talks us through the tracks on her bestselling album

1 Pokarekare Ana

I really wanted to include some 'Kiwiana' on the album, and this is a traditional Maori song which everyone in NZ learns to sing at school.

2 Never Say Goodbye

This song is based on Ravel's famous Pavane – it's such a beautiful tune, and the new lyrics are very moving.

3 Who Painted the Moon Black?

I listened to hundreds of demos for the album, but this one kept on coming back to haunt me. It's a simple, sad song about someone leaving with no explanation.

4 River of Dreams

This is based on the slow movement of Vivaldi's 'Winter'. It's a wonderful arrangement by Sarah Cass, almost like flowing water.

5 Benedictus

The Benedictus is from Karl Jenkins's Mass for Peace. It makes me think of people reflecting on the pain and devastation of war – the music is incredibly intense.



6 Hino e Hino

Another Maori song – it's a lullaby sung by a mother to her daughter, and it was written by Princess Te Rangī Pahi.

7 Dark Waltz

This is a really beautiful, mystical piece, but quite bittersweet with a lovely melody.

8 Amazing Grace

The first time I performed this was with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards back in NZ, and it's been one of my favourite songs ever since.

9 In Trutina

I love Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and this is one of the best moments. There were some other more operatic things I'd have liked to include, but I had to be careful not to push my voice too much.

10 Beat of Your Heart



This was written specially for me by Sir George Martin, the Beatles' producer. It wasn't really an offer I could turn down! Just to have the recognition from him was pretty amazing in itself.

11 Heaven

This was composed by Ronan Hardiman, who also wrote all the music for *Lord of the Dance*. He's written some other fantastic pieces but I could only choose one!

12 Wuthering Heights

Kate Bush's song is so wild and free-spirited – it really captures the book. And since I'm actually studying the novel for GCSE, I really feel close to what I'm singing about.

13 Hino e Hino

This is another version of track six with speech – it gives the track a real Maori touch. The words are spoken by John Tapiata of the Te Tau Maori

and strike deals with recording agencies, I wonder? And it seems like the magic spell is going to last quite a bit longer. Hayley's already thinking what she might like to put on a second album, and talking about writing her own songs. She has numerous appearances and

performances booked until the crack of doom. And yet she's still not old enough to vote. I suspect that when she performs the line, 'We are the lucky ones' in the song *Dark Waltz* on her album, she knows what she's talking about. ■

For all Hayley's latest news see www.hayleywestenra.com

SEE HAYLEY ON TOUR

Tour dates: 20 Mar at Dorngate Theatre, Northampton (01604 624811); 21 Mar, North Wales Theatre, Llandudno (01492 872000); 24, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester (0161 907 9000); 25, St George's Hall, Bradford (01274 752000); 28, St David's Hall, Cardiff (029 2087 8444); 29, The Palladium, London (0207 494 5020); 31, Congress Theatre, Epsom (01323 412000); 1 April, Pavilion, Bournemouth (08701 113000).

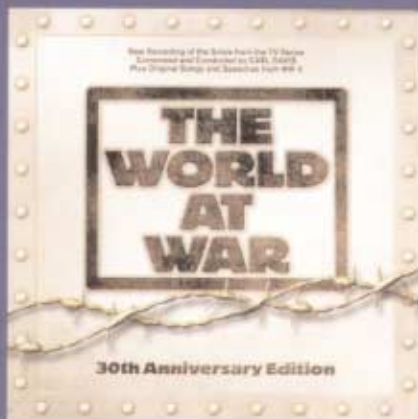
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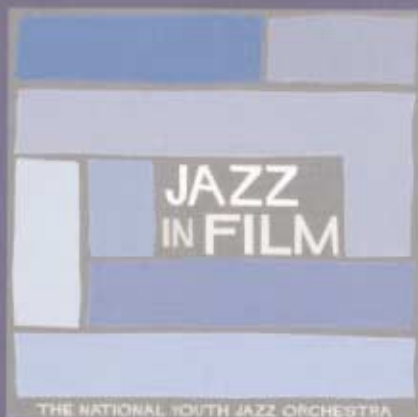
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