

Performances in N.Y.C.

At the Philharmonic

At Carnegie Hall

'Primary Trust'

'Monsoon Wedding'

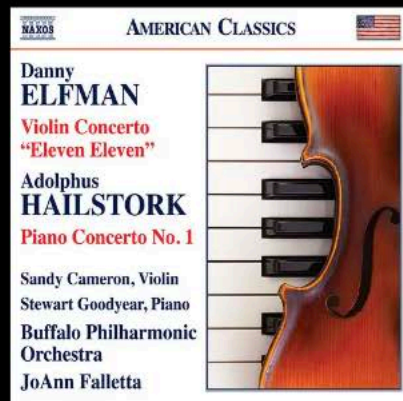
'Summer, 1976'

'Prima Facie'

'Good Night, Oscar'

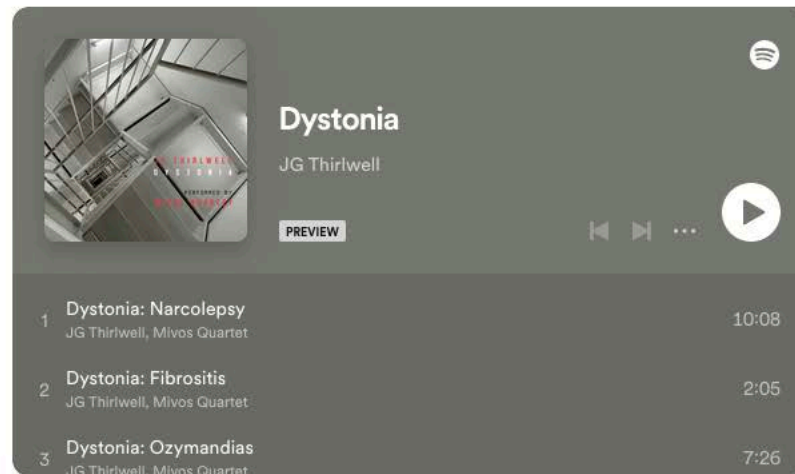
5 Classical Music Albums You Can Listen to Right Now

Contemporary works by JG Thirlwell and Adolphus Hailstork, a Franz Schreker survey and a new recording by Michael Spyres are among the highlights.

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JG Thirlwell: 'Dystonia'

Mivos Quartet (Cantaloupe)



If you're a fan of adult cartoons, you may have already heard the music of the composer JG Thirlwell, who has written antic and entertaining themes for "Archer" and "The Venture Bros." But he has also long plied his trade on the contemporary classical scene, with compositions for the Kronos Quartet and Alarm Will Sound.

At a harmonic level, his cartoon scores don't sound much like his "serious" music. But there is one constant at work: Thirlwell is an entertainer. That quality makes his latest album — a series of quartets played by the Mivos Quartet — a [particular highlight](#).

A demonstration of his talent comes during the first minute of "Ozymandias," the album's vivacious, tightly plotted centerpiece. After establishing an easy facility with some evergreen avant-garde-isms — stabbing staccato, glowering glissandi — Thirlwell writes a passage of singing, vibrato-strewn playing. Then it's back to the savagery. Crucially, though, he's not afraid of more vulnerable sonic states. That sensibility pays off handsomely throughout the album, not least in the penultimate work, "Heliophobia."

At a surface level, the sequencing of this album's five works alternates between intense ragers and more intimate meditations, but each one also contains multitudes. And chalk up another victory for the Mivos players; last year, they brought [new pieces by the improvising guitarist Mary Halvorson](#) into the classical sphere. Now they've made a mark this year as well. SETH COLTER WALLS