

THE MONTH IN MUSIC

The recordings, concerts, broadcasts and websites exciting us this December

ON STAGE A big hit

Few works written in recent years have matched the popularity of *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, James MacMillan's 1991 concerto for percussion and orchestra. So, when MacMillan's new Percussion Concerto is unveiled at the Southbank's Metal, Wood, Skin festival this month, interest will be huge. The Philharmonia and soloist Colin Currie join forces. *See p114*

ON AIR Holy order

King's College, Cambridge may have the BBC monopoly on Nine Lessons and Carols, but it's near neighbours St John's that is chosen to mark the start of Advent on Radio 3. Andrew Nethsingha leads the choir and organ scholars in a varied and beautifully performed fare of sumptuous hymns, stunning anthems and thunderous organ music. *Choral Evensong; 30 Nov, 3pm*

ONLINE Digital minimalism

For the 50th anniversary of Terry Riley's (pictured) seminal minimalist work *In C*, ChampdAction and Concertgebouw Brugge have produced an app that makes the piece playable on smartphone, tablet or computer. The music may not be everyone's cup of tea, but the choice of instruments and the app's social function will engage new audiences. *itunes.com*

ON DISC Web of intrigue

The shadowy corners of the internet collide with real-life murder in the plot of American composer Nico Muhly's opera *Two Boys*, now out on disc for the first time. It's a recording from the 2013 New York Metropolitan Opera production conducted by David Robertson, and starring tenor Paul Appleby and mezzo-soprano Alice Coote. *See p88*