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music

The FEARLESS VIRTUOSO

KHATIA BUNIATISHVILI

The Georgian pianist daring
 to reinvent Musorgsky's
Pictures at an Exhibition



Anne Queffélec (piano)
 Frank Braley (piano)
 BBC National
 Orchestra of Wales
 Grant Llewellyn
 (conductor)

Satie
 Gymnopédies
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SATIE
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Poulenc Concerto for Two Pianos

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AUDIO

Our audio expert *Michael Brook* takes a look at the best new audio and video equipment to help you get the most out of recorded classical music



MUSIC CHOICE

ONE-BOX HI-FI AUDIO STREAMING

Naim Mu-so £895

Naim is an iconic name in British hi-fi, renowned for its big, weighty, black hi-fi boxes that cared little for aesthetics, instead saving all its efforts in the pursuit of audio quality. And that's been the way of the world for the company since it set up in the mid-1970s, producing hi-fi that has remained timeless. So it's almost odd to clap eyes on the Naim Mu-so (below), a one-box streaming system that promises to deliver everything the modern hi-fi enthusiast could ever need. Not only does it have a brushed aluminium build but also a changeable grille that allows you to add a splash of colour. Available in blue, red or orange, these panels cost £49.95 each.

The real star of the show is the control dial. Doubling as a touchscreen control for the unit itself, adjusting the

volume is a joy and, while you can control the Mu-so from other devices, via Android and Apple iOS apps, you'll more than likely find yourself going back to that dial, time and time again.

The Mu-so is blessed with every connectivity option under the sun, cramming in Bluetooth, Apple AirPlay, Spotify Connect and much more. There's a USB input for connecting directly to Apple devices and music stored on USB devices, not to mention an optical input for CDs and DVDs and an old-fashioned 3.5mm input for anything that doesn't fall into the above camps.

But the one thing we haven't mentioned yet is how it all sounds, and that's where things get interesting. Full-bodied with crisp treble and deep, powerful bass, there's no lack of finesse to the Mu-so, despite its one-box design. Yes, it's costly, but there's little to touch it at this, or any other, price. www.naimaudio.com ★★★★★

