



CBCmusic

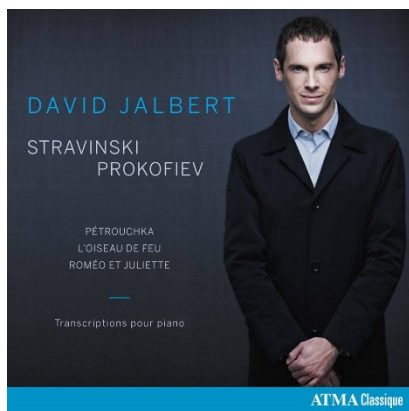
By Editorial Staff  
November 29, 2017

In some ways, 2017 was a slog. But in other ways, the year seemed to go by in a flash, which may be attributable to the profusion of excellent new albums released by Canada's classical musicians this year.

We received albums from new ensembles and established artists, playing music ranging from the medieval period to the present — a variety of repertoire that's almost as impressive as the talented musicians bringing it to life. It's difficult to select the best from this deserving field, but there were a number that stood out for us.

Here's a countdown of our 10 favourite Canadian classical albums of the year.

### 8. Stravinski, Prokofiev



**Artist:** David Jalbert  
**Label:** ATMA Classique

2017 saw the continuation of the series from a number of prominent Canadian pianists — Vol. 2 of Angela Hewitt's *Scarlatti Sonatas* on Hyperion, Vol. 3 of Janina Fialkowska's *Chopin Recital* series for ATMA Classique and *Louis Lortie Plays Chopin*, Vol. 5 on Chandos — in addition to an accomplished all-Ravel album from Stewart Goodyear. All highly recommended and worthy of repeated listening.

But we were especially taken with David Jalbert's latest release: transcriptions of ballet scores by Stravinsky and Prokofiev. Jalbert makes no secret of his obsession with Prokofiev — he's working through the [complete sonata cycle](#) in concert these days — so it's hardly surprising his reading of *Ten Pieces from Romeo and Juliet* is on point, from the swagger of "Mercutio" to the enchantment of "Friar Laurence." He plays Stravinsky's *Trois Mouvements de Petrouchka* and *Firebird Suite (1919)* with rhythmic elasticity and impressive power (with headsets you can hear him grunting, Gould-like, during the big passages), adapting them beautifully to the keyboard. It's pretty thrilling.