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KUSC's My Favorite Things | Our Favorite Albums of 2020

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Need a gift for the music lover in your life? Don't miss KUSC's My Favorite Things! We're sharing our favorite albums from the past year, hand-picked from each host. It's music we don't want you to miss!

See the lists below — just click on each host to see their picks. And tune in all December long as we highlight these favorites on-air.

Jennifer Miller's Favorite Things

Alan Chapman's Favorite Things

Brian Lauritzen's Favorite Things

Sheku Kanneh-Mason / London Symphony Orchestra / Sir Simon Rattle

Elgar

10 days into 2020 (before we had broken our New Year's resolutions to go to the gym more and perhaps travel abroad) the excellent British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason dropped his first concerto album. In addition to Elgar's heart-wrenching post-war Cello Concerto, Kanneh-Mason also includes a number of miniatures on this album, including a stunning arrangement of the *Nimrod Variation* for cello ensemble.

Buy CD

Mobili: Music for Viola and Piano from Chile

Georgina Isabel Rossi, Silvie Cheng

One of my favorite discoveries of the year was an album of music by Chilean composers released in October by the Chilean-American violist Georgina Isabel Rossi. "Al fondo de me lejanía se asoma tu casa" ("In the Depths of My Distance Your House Emerges") is a moment of sheer beauty and calm in what has been a turbulent and uncertain year.

Buy CD

Elena Urioste and Tom Poster

Grieg: The Violin Sonatas "To the Spring"

One way to keep the music playing during quarantine is to be married to your chamber music partner. Such is the case for violinist Elena Urioste and pianist Tom Poster. While their recording of the complete Violin Sonatas by Edvard Grieg was released before lockdown, they've been making lots of music (and taking audience requests) and posting it online throughout. Not sure where to start with the complete Grieg Violin Sonatas? Try the rambunctious folk-inspired final movement of No. 2 or the heart-melting warmth of the second movement of No. 3.

Buy CD

Pacific Chorale and Salastina

Tarik O'Regan: All Things Common

The OC-based Pacific Chorale released a recording with LA-based chamber music collective, Salastina, of music by the Irish-Algerian composer Tarik O'Regan. A couple of little gems alongside the larger works on the album