

Chicago

CLASSICAL REVIEW

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The Top 10 Performances of 2011

By Lawrence A. Johnson

Thu Dec 22, 2011 at 5:42 pm

1. Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra:
Verdi's Otello

2. Susanna Mälkki and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra:
Ives, Musgrave and Strauss

3. The Pacifica Quartet in Shostakovich's Quartets Nos. 7
and 10-12.

4. Bernard Haitink and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra:
Mahler's Symphony No. 9

5. Chicago Opera Theater: Tod Machover's *Death and the
Powers*

6. Esa-Pekka Salonen and violinist Leila Josefowicz with
the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

7. Lyric Opera of Chicago: Wagner's *Lohengrin*

8. Carlos Kalmar and the Grant Park Orchestra in
Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*.

9. John Nelson and the Chicago Bach Project: Bach's *St.
Matthew Passion*



Photo: David Cortes

10. Fulcrum Point: *Speaking in Tongues*

Just by definition new-music concerts are often mixed, uneven affairs but in this [March program](#) Fulcrum Point managed to deliver one of the finest contemporary programs of recent seasons with three world premieres. With artful, non-distracting projections, all the varied works received tight, full-metal performances under Stephen Burns' focused direction.