



Music to my ears

What the classical world has been listening to this month

Yael Weiss Pianist



One of my first loves as a kid was **JS Bach** – he was one of the main reasons I became a musician, and I've

always loved Edward Aldwell's recording of his preludes and fugues. When everything feels unsettled, I listen to this and it always makes me feel as though the world makes sense. There's a beautiful kind of balance in his performances. They sound very human and very passionate.

As we're now in **Beethoven's** 250th anniversary year, I've had a lot of opportunities to play and listen to his music, particularly his piano sonatas. There are so many recordings, but one set I find interesting is by Anton Kuerti. He's a wonderful writer too and

has written the liner notes, which are humorous and full of personal observations. He's not afraid to be critical, even of Beethoven.

While I was in Vienna, I located the building where Beethoven lived. It's not far from

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the Burgtheater, which is where his Second Piano Concerto was first performed. While I walked between the two, I listened to **Mitsuko Uchida's** recording of this concerto with Simon Rattle. It was a great combination of music and location, but that was a unique occasion. I otherwise never listen

to music with headphones on when I'm on the go – it's a terrible way to listen.

And also...

I've just reread **Paolo Coelho's** *The Alchemist*, which reminds us to concentrate on our mission in life. There are so many distractions around us, but this gives me peace of mind and a sense of purpose.