

## **Classical: New releases: Stockhausen: Gruppen: Punkte**

PAUL DRIVER

**STOCKHAUSEN Gruppen, Punkte**  
**WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, cond Peter**  
**Eotvos, Arturo Tamayo, Jacques Mercier**  
**BMC CD 117**

Gruppen — the title somehow much more glamorous than the English translation, Groups, can ever be — remains the grandest masterpiece of post-war serialism, and this account is both spectacular and moving. Devised for three orchestras, playing for the most part at different speeds, each with its own conductor, the 25-minute work has an internal dynamism as captivating as it is unusual. Extraordinary efflorescences of sound appear and disappear; ideas ricochet between the groups; a single chord travels through space. Punkte (1952) is given in the latest (1993), least pointillistic of its revisions, and it is thrilling too.

**Four stars**