

The British Classical Record Industry, 1945-59: Fidelity and Formats

Label	UK parent	First known UK, post-war classical release, plus source
Columbia	EMI	Advert in the September 1945 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
HMV	EMI	Advert in the September 1945 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
Decca	N/A	Advert in the September 1945 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
Parlophone	EMI	Review, December 1945. This Richard Tauber disc, unlike other recent Tauber discs, is fully classical rather than mixed or solely popular repertoire.
Cherubini Society	Neglected Masterpieces	CS 1-3 presumably pre-January 1950. Advert for second release (CS 4-8) in March 1950 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
Neglected Masterpieces	N/A	Advert in the January 1950 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
Parlophone-Odeon	EMI	Review, March 1950 (also advised in the same edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> ).
Esquire	N/A	Advert in the June 1950 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
Capitol	Decca*	Review, September 1950. *Later EMI.
Nixa	N/A*	Advert in the October 1950 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> . *Later part of the Pye-Nixa group.
Paxton	N/A	Pre-August 1951 with inclusion of records in <i>The Record Guide</i> (though likely that some were issued much earlier).
Allegro	Oriole	Review, January 1952.
Telefunken	Decca	Reviewed either February or May 1952; former date from <i>The Gramophone September 1954 Long Playing Classical Record Catalogue</i> , latter from March 1955 edition.
Brunswick	Decca	Between August 1951 and July 1952 with inclusion of records in <i>The Record Year</i> .
Argo	N/A*	Between July 1952, when <i>The Record Year</i> was published, and June 1953 when RG 6 was reviewed. *Later Decca.
Monarch	Quality	Review, December 1952.
Vox	N/A	Between July 1952, when <i>The Record Year</i> was published, and May 1953 when PL 6300 was reviewed.
Transacord	N/A	June 1953. <i>Sounds of Railways and Their Recording</i> .
L'Oiseau-Lyre	Decca (London)	First mention of London Edition de l'Oiseau-Lyre records in Decca's August-October 1953 LP supplement catalogue. Earlier reviews in <i>The Gramophone</i> represent imports.
MGM	EMI	First classical release MGM-D122; MGM-D123 reviewed December 1953. Likely issued simultaneously.
Apollo	N/A	Review, March 1954.
Mercury	Oriole*	Earliest known review is for MG 40002 in June 1954. *Later Pye, followed by EMI.
Herald	N/A	The first known classical release on mixed genre sequence is RPL 607, reviewed June 1954.

Cont/d.

Table XVI cont/d.

Label	UK parent	First known post-war classical release and comments
Philips	N/A	The first batch notified in the August 1954 edition of <i>The Gramophone</i> .
London International	Decca	The first known classical release is TW 91001; TW 91004 was reviewed September 1954 and it is likely that these were issued close together, if not simultaneously.
Felsted	Decca	First known release (L 89001) reviewed October 1954.
Ducretet-Thomson	Decca (London)	First reviews (DTL 93007/EL 93008) December 1954; DTL 93001-3 not reviewed until January 1955.
Archiv Produktion	Heliodor	First review (APM 14006) November 1954; earlier numerical records had later reviews, e.g. APM 14002, January 1955.
Concert Artist	N/A	Between September and December 1954; first listed in <i>The Gramophone December 1954 Long Playing Classical Record Catalogue</i> .
Delysé	N/A	First release listed as "...announced..." in <i>The Gramophone December 1954 Long Playing Classical Record Catalogue</i> .
Deutsche Grammophon	Heliodor	First release notified in <i>The Gramophone March 1955 Long Playing Classical Record Catalogue</i> .
Vanguard	Pye-Nixa	First release on its own label imprint advised October 1955.
Pye	Pye-Nixa	Advised April 1957, though already issuing classical repertoire on the Mercury and Vanguard imprints.
RCA Victor	Decca	Advised July 1957.
Vogue	Decca	Advised November 1957. It is possible that a few EPs were issued slightly earlier but not advised to <i>The New Records</i> .
Fontana	Philips	Advised January 1958.
Ace of Clubs	Decca	Advised July 1958.
RCA Camden	RCA Victor*	Advised October 1958s. *Distributed via Decca.
Top Rank	N/A	Advised April 1959.
Heliodor	N/A	Advised June 1959.
Concert Classics	EMI (HMV)	Advised November 1959.
Golden Guinea	Pye*	Advised November 1959. *Nixa name no longer used.
Saga	N/A	1959, month unknown.
World Record Club	N/A	<i>Different sources state a start date as early as 1955, though the first known classical release has a 1957 publication date. There are likely to be earlier examples.</i>
Concert Hall Record Club	Allied	<i>Late 1950s, with 1958 possibly looking the best guess.</i>

Table XVI. Labels that released classical repertoire between 3 Sep. 1945 and 31 Dec. 1959 in order of first known classical release during the period. Much guesswork exists between Jan. 1946 and Dec. 1949, and between Jan. 1951 and Sep. 1955. The last three rows are unordered. Societies are not listed unless there is some firm evidence of the first post-war classical release date.