

# MELLOR'S CD OF THE WEEK



## **Britten**

*Violin Concerto with Tasmin Little*  
*Piano Concerto with Howard Shelley*  
(Chandos)

Perhaps the best new recording thus far of Benjamin Britten's centenary year features three fine British artists. Tasmin Little (pictured) is inspired throughout the Violin Concerto, and Howard Shelley virtuosic in the Piano Concerto, which is often percussive in the manner of Prokofiev. Ed Gardner has long been a Britten specialist, and he and the BBC Philharmonic provide an eloquently idiomatic backcloth. Chandos's recording is also, as ever, first-class. Both are early works, and for me, a cause for regret that Britten was later so pressured by his partner Peter Pears to produce almost entirely vocal music.

*Britten At War – Page 32*