

## THE BEST CLASSICAL CD'S OF 2004

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*The classical recording business still has its problems, and it is anyone's guess how the Sony-BMG merger will affect the industry, but obituaries are still premature. Perhaps more labels are beginning to find virtue in the necessity to live small. For whatever reason, the number of truly excellent CD's seems to have risen over the last year or two. So it is with pleasure that the classical music critics of The New York Times here list some of their favorite CD's from 2004.*

*The numbers before each entry refer to the image of the CD covers to the right.*

### **23. WILMS: SYMPHONIES NOS. 6, 7**

*Concerto Köln, conducted by Werner Ehrhardt (Deutsche Grammophon Archiv)*

It stands to reason that there were good and worthy composers working in Beethoven's shadow, though we haven't heard much of their music. Now, courtesy of the adventurous Concerto Köln, meet Johann Wilhelm Wilms, a German who had a stellar career in Amsterdam, an ebullient and engaging musical personality.

JAMES R. OESTREICH