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Classical Playlist

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LEON KIRCHNER: 'Revelations'

Diverse works. Joel Fan, pianist; Diana Hoagland, soprano; and others, including Leon Kirchner, pianist.

(Verdant World Records)

"Revelations" is an apt title for this important recording of diverse works — piano pieces, songs, choral works, most of them little known — by

the American master composer Leon Kirchner, who died at 90 in 2009. Kirchner's music draws elements from his teacher Schoenberg, his mentor Stravinsky, and other 20th-century modernists, fashioned into his own rigorous, expressive voice. From Kirchner's early *Little Suite* for piano (1949) to his last piece, "The Forbidden" (2006), in its version as the *Piano Sonata No. 3*, the music is alluring, pungent and intelligent, especially in these fine performances, most of them featuring the impressive pianist Joel Fan. *(Tommasini)*

