# György Ligeti: Recommended Recordings
Compiled by Michael Schell

There are many single-CD albums devoted to Ligeti's music, with the works for solo instruments and small ensembles understandably getting the most coverage. But for a good general survey of important compositions in various genres and stages of his career, a great option is *Clear or Cloudy*, a four-CD set that gathers all the Deutsche Grammophon recordings of his music made during his lifetime.
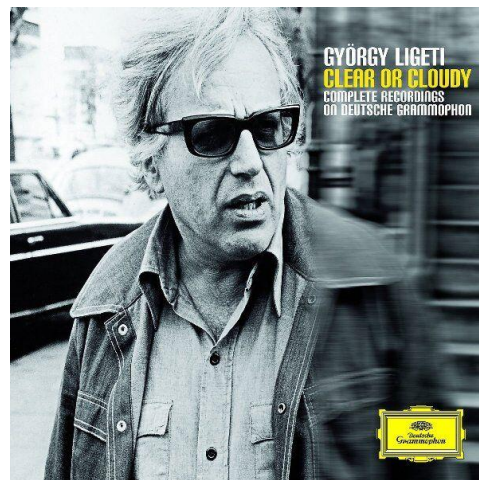
If that's not enough Ligeti for you, his (almost) complete surviving output is covered between two major efforts, both compiled under the composer's supervision:

- Sony's eight-volume *Ligeti Edition*, which includes *Le Grand Macabre* and most of the solo and small ensemble pieces. The volumes are sometimes available in an economical bundle, but the individual volumes are available separately as well (e.g., Volume 1)

- Teldec/Warner's **Ligeti Project** comprises five CDs that focus mainly on the large ensemble works that aren't included in Ligeti Edition, including the *Requiem* and the orchestral music
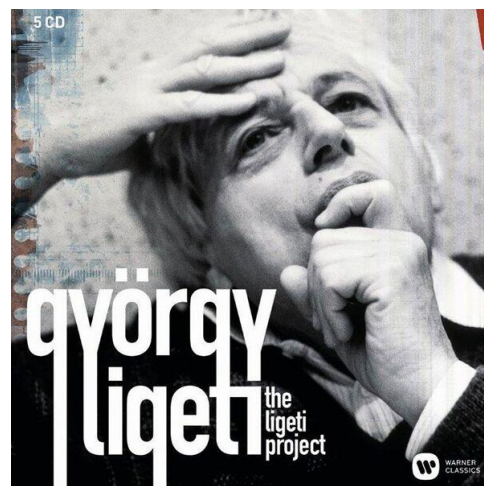
If you're a completist, you can add Fredrik Ullén's collection of *Complete Piano Works* Volume 1 and Volume 2 to cover a few missing pieces. Throw in this album for the string orchestra version of *Ramifications*, and this album for the 1957 tape piece *Glissandi*. Also nice to have is the original German version of *Le Grand Macabre*.

These last three are from CD rereleases of Wergo LPs that include first recordings of many of the seminal works described in the article, and which are worth having for their own sake, because although they don't match the standards of today's virtuoso musicians and recording engineers, they do convey a certain excitement—the novelty that this music had as performers and audiences first grappled with it in the 1960s and 70s. Grab yourself some good headphones and a quiet place, and imagine (or relive) the thrill of hearing these sounds for the first time.