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# A MOST MOMENTOUS MUSICAL DECADE

It has been half a century since music has known a decade approaching the impact of the Noughties. With seismic changes including a new format in downloading, a new musical empire in the making and a new realisation of music's transformative powers thanks to Venezuela's El Sistema, James Inverne and James Jolly rank the ten biggest changes to have shaped music over the past 10 years.

## 10 **Artist-led festivals**

A generally very healthy live music scene led during the last 10 years to an explosion in the number of music festivals and the entrenchment of a relatively new phenomenon – the artist-created festival. Seemingly legions of fine soloists got in on the act, conceiving and leading their own events, often in unlikely or far-flung places. So we have had Leif Ove Andsnes in Risør, Lars Vogt in Spannungen, Angela Hewitt in

Trasimeno, David Finckel and Wu Han in Silicon Valley's Menlo and more, all over the place. Sometimes it is these festivals that have the purest ethos, shaped as they are by a single artistic outlook. Martha Argerich's Lugano Festival typifies the approach – she formed it in 2002 as much as anything as a focused environment in which she could help and advise esteemed younger colleagues, particularly pianists. And many years of the fruits of her labours can be enjoyed on an EMI

highlights set. Artist-led festivals are the proverbial win-win – a delightful and enlightening destination for music lovers that also often yield some fine recordings, they also serve to render the artists themselves creatively refreshed and energised for the year's more traditional travails ahead. And it's worth remembering that, though it may be a more popular phenomenon than ever just now, it's not new. Others have trod that path before, often with enduring results. Aldeburgh, anyone?