



Archive

Magazine Issues Conductors Performers Ensembles & Orchestras Instrumentalists Instruments

Singers Voices Vocal Roles Advanced Audio Reviewers Labels

Feature Articles Composers & Works Collections Jazz Videos Bollywood & Beyond Book Reviews Want Lists Hall of Fame

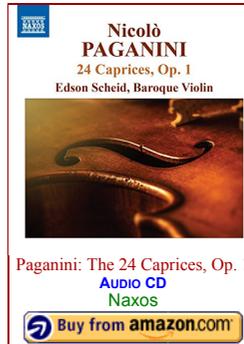
Related Articles

- Issue 40:3 Jan/Feb 2017
Feature Articles
Maria Nockin
PAGANINI
NAXOS
Edson Scheid
violin

FEATURE REVIEW by Maria Nockin

PAGANINI Caprices for Unaccompanied Violin, op. 1 (complete) • Edson Scheid (vn) (period instrument) • NAXOS 9.70264 (80:02)

The list of violinists who have recorded Paganini's 24 Caprices is not small, but it seems that hardly anyone other than Brazilian violinist Edson Scheid has recorded them on a Baroque violin, outfitted as it would have been in the composer's time. The music on the only currently available recordings to which I can compare Scheid's disc was played on today's solo instruments. For stark virtuosity, James Ehnes's 2010 performance on Onyx Classics is probably the most perfect. For a warmer more soulful rendition, I suggest Itzhak Perlman's less technical rendition from 2000 on EMI Classics. Julia Fischer released a relatively lyrical and almost faultless rendition of the Caprices on Decca in 2010, and it most certainly ranks among the best available today, as does Midori's remastered 1989 recording from Sony.



Paganini: The 24 Caprices, Op. 1 Audio CD Naxos Buy from amazon.com

Edson Scheid has toured much of the world playing the Caprices on both modern and Baroque violins. Paganini's 24 short pieces are among the most treacherous and technically difficult miniature violin pieces ever composed. Although at times they presage the beginning of the Romantic period, Paganini often asks the player to produce huge showers of perfectly executed notes. For this recording, Edson Scheid plays a violin made by Carlo Antonio Testore in 1739. It is outfitted with warm-toned gut strings tuned slightly lower than those of a modern instrument.

Nothing in Paganini's 24-compartment bag of tricks is too difficult for Scheid. Caprice No. 1, "The Arpeggio," requires ricochet across all four strings and descending scales in thirds. Caprices No. 5 and No. 9, "The Hunt," also call for ricochet as well as several other virtuosic skills. No. 2 and No. 13 require détaché bowing, while No. 3 focuses on slurred legato, wide stretches, and octave trills. Scheid rides the runs of Nos. 13 and 17 with alacrity and leaps gracefully across intervening strings in other Caprices. None of these maneuvers give him the slightest problem. He plays them all with seeming ease and solidity of tone production. Unlike many virtuosos, he plays Paganini's music at the written tempos, with fine gradations of dynamics and strong, resonant tones. Paganini had his lyrical side, and listeners may be emotionally affected by the opening passage of Caprice No. 4 when they hear Scheid play it on the gut strings of his Baroque instrument. The opening passage of No. 6, "The Trill," shimmers like the moon on calm water

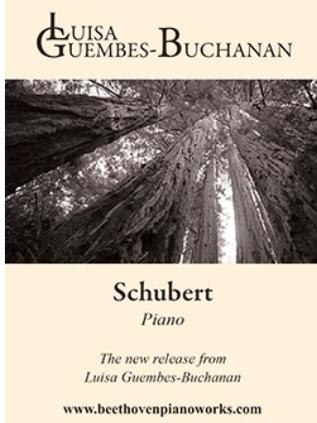
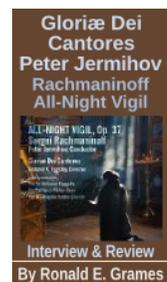
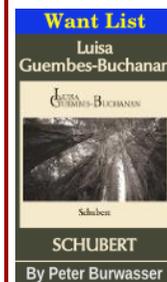
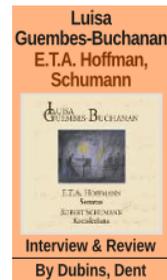
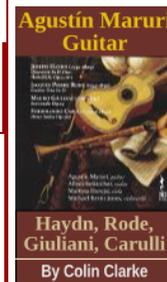
Our Advertisers

About Fanfare / Contact Us Advertise in the Fanfare Archive

NOT TO BE MISSED!

Reviews and interviews Just click and read!

If you don't see images below, please disable your browser's Ad Blocker for this site



Subscriber-Only Features

Listen to Audio & Video

 **Anthony Newman:** [Works for Organ](#)

 **James Kreger:** [CHOPIN, BRAHMS, BEETHOVEN](#)

 **Mark Abel:** [Home is a Harbor](#)

 **Michael Antonello:** [Collected Works](#)

 **Michael Habermann:** [SORABJI: Piano Music](#)

 **Nancy Roldán, José Miguel Cueto, Gabriella Cavallero:** [Piazzolla Here & Now](#)

 **Open Goldberg:** [Open Goldberg Variations](#)

 **Pedro H. da Silva / Lucía Caruso:** [Jeanne d'Arc, Le Voyage dans la Lune](#)

 **Serafin String Quartet:** [Selected Works](#)

 **The Crossing:** [Selected Works](#)

 **Thomas Murray:** [Symphonic Masterworks of Grieg & Franck](#)

 **Varda Kotler:** [YouTube Channel](#)

Fanfare Archive Advertisers

Buy & Sell [Classical CDs](#) at Princeton Record Exchange

when Scheid plays the melody along with an expertly handled left-hand tremolo. Paganini asks the virtuoso who tackles the Caprices to illustrate his various uses of staccato: slurred in Nos. 7 and 22, up-bow in Nos. 10 and 21, and furiously flying in No. 20 where the violinist plays a melody on the A- and E-strings reminiscent of a bagpipe. Paganini does not merely ask the violinist to double-stop; on occasion, he calls for triple- and even quadruple-stopping.

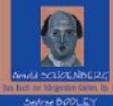
Only the cream of virtuosic talent want to play the Caprices. If you like unbridled virtuosity and historically informed playing on a Baroque instrument, you will enjoy Scheid's performance on this Naxos disc. Naxos's sound is pristine and I want this disc in my collection. **Maria Nockin**

This article originally appeared in Issue 40:3 (Jan/Feb 2017) of *Fanfare Magazine*.

Related Articles

		<i>Issue 40:3 Jan/Feb 2017</i>		
		Feature Articles		
		Maria Nockin		
		PAGANINI		
		NAXOS		
		Edson Scheid		
		violin		

Aylish Kerrigan
Schoenberg & Bodley Vocal Works



Interview & Review
By Verdino-Süllwold, Clarke

Horacio Gutiérrez



Chopin Préludes
Schumann Fantasie
By Myron Silberstein

Leticia Gómez-Tagle



POEMS & PICTURES
By Colin Clarke

UNLV Wind Orchestra
Thomas Leslie
The Return



Interview & Review
By Grames, Dent

Cline/Cuestas Duo
Facets: Music for Flute & Guitar



Interview & Review
By Clarke, Saemann

Martin Camacho,
Piano



Armengol:
22 Danzas cubanas
By Colin Clarke

EIDE



Feature & Review
By Eide, Dent

Vebjørn Anvik,
Piano



Lasse Thoresen
Maurice Ravel
Vebjørn Anvik
Thoresen, Ravel
By Colin Clarke

Video Review



Varda Kotler
YouTube Channel
By Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold

Jack Gallagher
Symphony No. 2
Orchestral Music
Piano Music



Interview & Review
By David Canfield



/AustralianEloquence



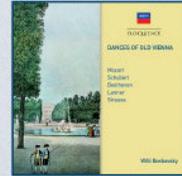
www.EloquenceClassics.com



DECCA 482 4637 (4CD)

IRMA KOLASSI
The Decca Recitals

Irma Kolassi's ten Decca recitals ranging from Arie antiche through Chausson, Berlioz and Massenet, to Spanish and Greek folk songs. On Decca CD for the first time.



DECCA 482 6152 (2CD)

DANCES OF OLD VIENNA

Willi Boskovsky
From the master of the celebrated Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Day concerts comes a generous album of music from the old Viennese masters – Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Strauss, Lanner, et al.



DECCA 482 4621

BERLIOZ · MASSENET
GOUNOD

Arias and Duets
Irma Kolassi and Raoul Jobim
in a selection of scenes from *La damnation de Faust*, *Roméo et Juliette* and *Werther*.

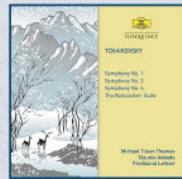


DG 482 5854 (2CD)

BEETHOVEN:
Piano Sonatas Andor Foldes

A collection of eight famous Beethoven sonatas recorded by Andor Foldes for Deutsche Grammophon and released on CD for the first time.

Also available:
Piano Concertos 1 & 2 (with Ferdinand Leitner); DG 4827048.



DG 482 6168

TCHAIKOVSKY
The Symphonies;
Tone Poems

Three individual 2CD sets of the complete symphonies of Tchaikovsky with Tilson Thomas (No. 1), Abbado (Nos. 2, 4, 5 & 6), Atzmon (No. 3 – first CD release) and Ahronovitch (Manfred), plus ballet suites with Ferdinand Leitner.
DG 4826168, 4826176, 4826184



DG 482 5944 (2CD)

SPANISH ROMANCES

Pilar Lorengar
Two recitals – one with guitar (Siegfried Behrend), the other with piano (Alicia de Larrocha) – of music from the Renaissance and the Baroque, as well as the songs of Granados.

Luisa Guembes-Buchanan
Mozart:
The Piano Sonatas

Interview & Review
By Dubins, Bayley

Phillip Kawin

Beethoven, Schumann
Schumann/Liszt,
Prokofiev

Interview & Review
By Clarke, Saemann

Alla Elana Cohen
Red Lilies of Bells,
Golden Lilies of Bells,
White Lilies of Bells

Interview & Review
By Canfield

Renée Reznek

From my Beloved Country: New South African Piano Music

By Dave Saemann

Editorial

Is Fanfare Now the Magazine for Serious Musicians?

By Joel Flegler

Editorial

The Problem of Label Advertising and Artist Support

By Joel Flegler

Critics' Corner

A Critic's Response to The Problem of Label Advertising and Artist Support

By Phillip Scott

Letter To The Editor

Buying Spree!

By David English