

Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky – Violin Concertos (1990)

Written by bluesever

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Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto In E Minor, Op. 64 1. *I. Allegro molto appassionato* 12:31 2. *II. Andante* 9:14 3. *III. Allegretto ma non troppo; Allegro molto vivace* 5:35

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto In D Major, Op. 35

4. *I. Allegro moderato* 17:25 5. *II. Canzonetta. Andante* 6:27 6. *III. Finale. Allegro vivacissimo* 9:08

Isaac Stern - violin The Philadelphia Orchestra Eugene Ormandy – conductor

This recording of these two classic violin concertos was the first I heard of Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky's masterful works. Since that time, I have heard countless other violinists toy with these virtuosic labyrinths, but the first masters the duo by far. Isaac Stern does exactly what is required of the soloist in both concertos. The Mendelssohn he plays with a sort of cheerful melancholy, if that is indeed possible. The Concerto in D is given the serving of joy that it deserves without it being sickeningly sweet; it is given a fair amount of sadness as well. Paradoxical and ingenious, the compositions make one think a lot, and the talented Stern answers our questions and inspires new ones with each listen. Not only does the violinist hold us at the edge of our seats or lull us to sleep with his feeling, his technique is flawless. He does not attack each note; he weaves them together to form a brilliant recording.

Other fiddlers play it with too much feeling, or too much passiveness, and, of course, there is the plethora of those who aren't technically capable of the insane cadenzas. Stern has the right amount of everything. The sound quality is not excellent; luckily, there are now some editions with more effectively remastered versions. But even if this is the only disc available, Stern is the one to hear. Also, his Brahms Violin Concerto and Double Concerto recordings in the same series are quite excellent. Hopefully, all of you will sit back, relax, and be taken to another world. ---amazon.com

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