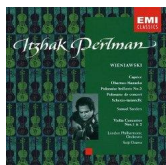


Wieniawski: Violin Concertos 1, 2, Caprice, Polonaise (Perlman) [1996]



1. 8 Etudes-Caprices Op. 18 : A Minor (arr. Kreisler) Itzhak Perlman/Samuel Sanders 1:33 2. 2 Mazurkas Op. 19 : No.1 Obertass Itzhak Perlman/Samuel Sanders 2:06 3. Polonaise No. 2, Op.21 Itzhak Perlman/Samuel Sanders 8:40 4. Polonaise No. 1 in D Op. 4 Itzhak Perlman/Samuel Sanders 4:41 5. Scherzo-tarantelle in G Minor, Op.16 Itzhak Perlman/Samuel Sanders 4:32 6. Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Sharp Minor, Op.14 : I. Allegro moderato Itzhak Perlman/London Philharmonic Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa 15:21 7. Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Sharp Minor, Op.14 : II. Preghiera (Larghetto) Itzhak Perlman/London Philharmonic Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa 5:20 8. Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Sharp Minor, Op.14 : III. Rondo (Allegro giocoso) Itzhak Perlman/London Philharmonic Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa 7:09 9. Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor Op. 22 : I. Allegro moderato Itzhak Perlman/London Philharmonic Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa 11:19 10. Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor Op. 22 : II. Romance (Allegro non troppo) Itzhak Perlman/London Philharmonic Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa 5:05 11. Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor Op. 22 : III. Allegro con fuoco - Allegro moderato (à la Zingara) Itzhak Perlman/London Philharmonic Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa 5:52 Itzhak Perlman (Violin) Samuel Sanders (Piano) London Philharmonic Orchestra Seiji Ozawa – conductor

"Poor Wieniawski!", Tchaikovsky wrote to their mutual patroness Nadezhda von Meek. "I reckon him very gifted. . . . His charming Legend and a few parts of the D minor concerto give evidence of a serious creative talent". When he died, in Moscow in 1880, not yet 45, one of the great talents of nineteenth-century violin virtuosity was lost; he is the link between the Franco-Belgian school and the modern Russians, who have always followed Tchaikovsky in holding him in great honour. He was the first violin professor at Anton Rubinstein's new Conservatory in St Petersburg in 1862; his assistant was Leopold Auer, who followed some of his methods and was the teacher of Elrnan, Heifetz and Zimbalist. His work and his music are directly connected to a style of violin playing we may still hear on our concert platforms today.

The music, too, could do with an occasional airing. The Second Concerto has not lacked enthusiasts to echo Tchaikovsky's admiration; and it is, indeed, easy to see how the easy lyrical

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line and the gipsy exuberance of the finale would appeal to Tchaikovsky. The First Concerto, in F sharp minor, earns a dismissive comment in the current edition of Grove, I see, which seems less than fair: the middle movement, a Preghiera, is a dark, intense and very beautiful movement and the finale has a lively kick to it, a sense of joie de vivre and of joy in mastery of the instrument. It is obviously very much the music of the man of whom the young Hubay could write (in a translation of a notice written for a Budapest paper in 1877), "Wieniawski is equally far removed from German sentimentality and Italian exaggerated sweetness of which Paganini himself was not free. Even in moments of highest emotion and ardour he never transgresses elegance of style and noble taste".

The latter sentence could well describe Perlman's glowing performances. Perlman captures the warmth and fervour and brilliance and the more than slight salting of showmanship which are part of what is also a genuine lyrical gift. This is superb playing of superb virtuoso music, well worth attention from many music-lovers to whom Wieniawski can be hardly more than a name. The recording is suitably warm and vivid. --- Gramophone [5/1973, reviewing the original LP release of the two concertos], arkivmusic.com

Słuchałem już paru wykonań koncertów Wieniawskiego. Wszystkie są brawurowe i wirtuozowskie (Nizioł, Pławner, Shaham). Ale to wykonanie, zachwyca tą niepowtarzalną barwą skrzypiec Perlmana i ich "mięsistym" brzmieniem. Chciałoby się po prostu zanurzyć w tej muzyce i żeby świat przestał istnieć. Gorąco polecam! ---Mariusz Polomka, merlin.pl

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