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Playing Time
66:15

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The operatic fantasy, as a vehicle for the display of virtuosity, came into its own in the 19th century, notably with the 'demon violinist' Paganini, whose variations on Rossini's *I Palpiti* are included here. Later and contemporary composers and musicians have continued the practice of taking themes from operas and presenting them in ever more virtuosic guise. They include Stefan Frenkel whose technically very demanding arrangements of songs from Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* provide a dazzling showpiece in the nineteenth-century virtuoso tradition of Paganini and Liszt. The haunting *Desde mi ventana* (From my window) from Osvaldo Golijov's fusion opera *Ainadamar* (Fountain of Tears) is heard in an arrangement for two violins and piano by the composer and Stephen Prutsman.

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

OPERA FANTASIES FOR VIOLIN

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|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Jenő Hubay (1858-1937): Fantaisie brillante on Bizet's <i>Carmen</i> , Op. 3, No. 3 ¹² | 8:14 |
| 2 | Joachim Raff (1822-1882): Duo on themes from Wagner's <i>Lohengrin</i> , Op. 63, No. 3 ¹² | 9:12 |
| 3 | Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) arr. Samuel Dushkin (1891-1976): Parasha's Aria from <i>Mavra</i> ¹² | 3:15 |
| 4 | Osvaldo Golijov (b. 1960) arr. Golijov/Stephen Prutsman (b. 1960): Desde mi ventana (From My Window) from <i>Ainadamar</i> ^{123*} | 7:41 |
| 5 | Kurt Weill (1900-1950) arr. Stefan Frenkel (1902-1979): Song of Human Insufficiency/Mack the Knife (Seven Pieces from <i>The Threepenny Opera</i> , No. 1) ¹² | 3:01 |
| 6 | Stephen Prutsman (b. 1960): Fantasy Extract on Themes from Richard Strauss's <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> ^{12*} | 15:56 |
| 7 | Nicolò Paganini (1782-1840): I palpiti: Introduction and Variations on <i>Di tanti palpiti</i> from Rossini's <i>Tancredi</i> ¹² | 11:00 |
| 8 | Georges Bizet (1838-1875) arr. Benjamin Loeb (b. 1966): Au fond du temple saint from <i>Les pêcheurs de perles</i> (The Pearl Fishers) ^{124*} | 5:08 |
| 9 | Edouard Lalo (1823-1892) arr. Joseph Szigeti (1892-1973): Aubade: <i>Vainement, ma bien-aimée</i> from <i>Le roi d'Ys</i> ¹² | 2:49 |

Livia Sohn, Violin¹ • Benjamin Loeb, Piano²
Geoff Nuttall, Violin³ / Viola⁴

* denotes world première recording

Recorded at the Performing Arts Centre, The Country Day School, Ontario, Canada, 20-23 March, 2006
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