

Klassik

## Niccolò Paganini – Violin Concerto No. 4 d-moll; Uto Ughi, I Filarmonici di Roma



Fonè fonè 009 LP

Niccolò Paganini was a rebel – and he rested always a bit fishy for his contemporaries. But actually, this fact comes at no surprise in view of the incredible technical challenges embellishing his pieces that, even today, being a nearly insolvable task for every violinist. So, very soon the Genovese was attached the attribute of a dare-devil violinist – an attribute, expressing respect and esteem at the same time. Whether it has been a physical abnormality (one rumours he would have been able to stretch his fingers enormously) or just a clever marketing campaign – he, after all, tailored his own compositions to himself – remains to be seen... The Italian Uto Ughi started out to follow in his footsteps. And if one listens to his performance, it must be candidly admitted that he would deserve the title of a dare-devil, too! Undaunted by death, the Italian plunges into the solo part of Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 4 in D minor. The arpeggios are crackling down like cascades for that it is a sheer splendour; the flying staccatos sound like salvos, as Ughi is throwing his bow thus precisely and concisely on the strings. He masters even the most incredible changes of positions competently – and with an elegant portamento.

But, as if this wasn't enough, he adds in the second movement the most lyrical expression I have ever heard in Paganini 4 – if not in his oeuvre in general. It is just moving to tears! Maybe, one has to be an Italian to entirely perceive Paganini's music and to bring out the expression lying beneath all the ornamentation. His Guarneri del Gesù, ex Grumiaux, underlines perfectly the noble character. The last movement, finally, gets an infernal ride. One can literally see the bow swirling through the air and see the fingers dancing – of course, this fact is also due to the incredible recording by fonè. The Italians – once more – have surpassed themselves. The 2x200grms, single-sided 45rpms sound just phenomenal. The live recording doesn't seem to have taken place at Rome, but in your listening room, with you being right in the middle! One thing is for sure: The Paganini myth did survive until today.