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SCENE



04/09-(5)

Title:

Paganini Plus

Arrangements and Original Compositions on Themes by Paganini for Saxophone and Piano

Musicians:

Raaf Hekkema, saxophone
Hans Eijsackers, piano

1 CD

Order Number:

MDG 619 1560-2

UPC-Code:



International Echo

Raaf Hekkema loves his saxophone, and the public and the music press love his refreshingly irreverent rendering of Paganini's caprices so much that it earned him an Echo Klassik Award. On this "Paganini plus" CD the "Instrumentalist of the Year" once again gives his all, this time together with his fellow Dutchman, the pianist Hans Eijsackers. The "plus" involves not only Eijsackers but also the many composers who over the last two centuries have arranged and paraphrased Paganini's caprices.

Original Transformations

The recording begins with pure Paganini. Hekkema has arranged the Italian virtuoso's second violin concerto for saxophone, serving up to us the "La Campanella" concluding movement. We meet Paganini's Quartetto XV for viola solo, violin, cello, and guitar as a "Sonata" for saxophone and piano by Hekkema and in an entirely new guise.

Universal Inspiration

The list of those who have been inspired by Paganini is a long one. Grigory Kalinkovitch in Moscow even composed an entire concerto for saxophone and piano on the basis of an original capriccio by the Italian. The Frenchman Paul Bonneau had a saxophone stand in for a whole orchestra in his caprice in waltz form. And Robert Schumann's keyboard gem, the "Étude concertante" with an independent bass voice, offers a splendid basis for a Hekkema's arrangement. The "Three Caprices" by

Karol Szymanowski and Sam Coslow's legendary song "Mr. Paganini" round out the program.

Mr. Saxophone

Raaf Hekkema has won many prizes and every year appears in more than a hundred concerts worldwide, performing mainly his own arrangements in addition to the classical and modern saxophone repertoire. As a permanent member of the Calefax Reed Quintet, Raaf Hekkema already has an extensive MDG discography.

Raaf Hekkema

Nicolò Paganini : Caprices op. 1 arr. for Saxophone
MDG 619 1379-2

Calefax Reed Quintet

Jean-Philippe Rameau
Nouvelles Suites
MDG 619 1374-2

J.S. Bach: Die Kunst der Fuge (arr.)
MDG 619 0989-2

Dimitri Shostakovich

Preludes and Fugues
MDG 619 1185-2

"600 Years of Calefax"

Works by Tchaikovsky, Byrd,
Debussy and Ockeghem
MDG 619 1043-2

