

DIAPASON

September 1991

Diabolical indeed is the adjective that best describes this recital of Sherban Lupu. The Romanian violinist has chosen the most immensurable virtuosi pieces of Ernst and Wieniavski to put together a fabulous acrobatic act.

In this delirium of fingers and bow Lupu displays an unimaginable ease -possibly more unlimited than the young Ricci -and goes for the most tearing glissandos (Adagio sentimentale, Adagio elegiague) to the most electric frenzy (Russian Carnival) with the same sincerity.

Most of the pieces by Ernst gathered here and recorded for the first time with the exception of "Hungarian airs", op.22, are of extreme technical difficulty, more so than the Paganini Caprices; in fact, they require absolute mastery of the instrument.

Through his refined sonority, light and vibrant and through his almost innate agility, Lupu reminds of the playing of certain self-taught violinists like Helmut Zacharias; as well as, in the great tradition of Romanian Violinists (like Dinicu), his style bears the print of the gypsy spontaneity (Oriental Fantaisie).

His left hand moves on the fingerboard without the slightest hindrance, while his flying bow lends itself to the most fantastic combinations with an abandon full of humour and spirit (Rondo Papageno). The teaching that lupu received from masters like Szering, Milstein, Delay or Gingold did not alter the authenticity of his style, which espouses a sensuality that does not succumb to the egocentricity of these pieces made of brilliant but ephemeral sparkles. For once, the accompanist gets involved and adheres to the spirit of this music with a sympathetic sensitivity.

A display of fireworks and a very rare occasion to re-discover violin playing inhabited by an authentic soul.

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