



## NICOLÒ PAGANINI 1782–1840

### 24 Caprices, Op.1

|           |                                                      |              |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>1</b>  | No.1 in E major: Andante                             | 1.40         |
| <b>2</b>  | No.2 in B minor: Moderato                            | 2.44         |
| <b>3</b>  | No.3 in E minor: Sostenuto — Presto — Sostenuto      | 2.55         |
| <b>4</b>  | No.4 in C minor: Maestoso                            | 6.24         |
| <b>5</b>  | No.5 in A minor: Agitato                             | 2.28         |
| <b>6</b>  | No.6 in G minor: Lento                               | 3.27         |
| <b>7</b>  | No.7 in A minor: Posato                              | 3.53         |
| <b>8</b>  | No.8 in E flat major: Maestoso                       | 2.39         |
| <b>9</b>  | No.9 in E major: Allegretto                          | 2.32         |
| <b>10</b> | No.10 in G minor: Vivace                             | 2.24         |
| <b>11</b> | No.11 in C major: Andante — Presto — Andante         | 3.27         |
| <b>12</b> | No.12 in A flat major: Allegro                       | 2.49         |
| <b>13</b> | No.13 in B flat major: Allegro                       | 2.33         |
| <b>14</b> | No.14 in E flat major: Moderato                      | 2.02         |
| <b>15</b> | No.15 in E minor: Posato                             | 2.31         |
| <b>16</b> | No.16 in G minor: Presto                             | 1.26         |
| <b>17</b> | No.17 in E flat major: Sostenuto — Andante           | 3.10         |
| <b>18</b> | No.18 in C major: Corrente — Allegro                 | 2.25         |
| <b>19</b> | No.19 in E flat major: Lento — Allegro assai         | 2.47         |
| <b>20</b> | No.20 in D major: Allegretto                         | 3.39         |
| <b>21</b> | No.21 in A major: Amoroso — Presto                   | 2.54         |
| <b>22</b> | No.22 in F major: Marcato                            | 2.29         |
| <b>23</b> | No.23 in E flat major: Posato                        | 4.43         |
| <b>24</b> | No.24 in A minor: Tema con variazioni (quasi presto) | 4.28         |
|           |                                                      | <b>72.37</b> |

### ITZHAK PERLMAN violin



**Itzhak Perlman**

Photo: Ken Veeder © Parlophone Records Limited

## PAGANINI: THE TWENTY-FOUR CAPRICES

Along with Bach's Sonatas and Partitas, Paganini's Caprices represent the ultimate solo challenge to any violinist. Itzhak Perlman is one of those who has taken on both, beginning with the Paganini, very early on in his recording career. In 1965 he set down three of the Caprices for RCA, but it was in January 1972 that he cemented his place in this tradition with a complete set that would make recording history. By strange coincidence, that same year saw the death of his illustrious predecessor Michael Rabin, whose own complete Paganini, made in 1958 for Capitol, was a permanent source of inspiration for the young Perlman.

The miracle achieved by the Caprices is that rather than being banal studies in virtuosity, they are a series of genuine masterpieces – a distillation of the composer's prodigious technical abilities and an endless source of melodic invention. Caprice No.24 is the perfect illustration, its themes having inspired so many other composers: Brahms (the Variations, Op.35), Rachmaninov (the Rhapsody, Op.43), Liszt, Szymanowski, Lutosławski, Rochberg, Schnittke and David Baker, among others. Rarely in the history of music has a so-called "minor" composer had such a significant influence on so many of his major colleagues.

Mastering the Caprices is a little like climbing Everest. Yet it requires more than technical mastery — a sense of theatricality and imagination is just as necessary when it comes to doing full justice to the melodic invention and fantastical spirit of the writing. The challenges are never-ending — the range of timbres, complex bowing techniques and the need for clear articulation and a purity of intonation and projection. As for risk-taking, it's the only way to get under the skin of the Caprices' creator. Perlman's performance is astonishing for its apparent effortlessness, revealing the charismatic and assured style for which he was to become known. His innate feeling for song and a zest for fun do the rest, giving his interpretation an irresistible charm undimmed by the passing years.

**Jean-Michel Molkhou**

Translation: Susannah Howe

## LES VINGT-QUATRE CAPRICES DE PAGANINI

Avec les six Sonates et Partitas de J.S. Bach, les Vingt-quatre Caprices de Paganini représentent le défi ultime auquel puisse se confronter un violoniste, seul avec son instrument. Itzhak Perlman est de ceux qui ont relevé les deux, en commençant par Paganini dès le début de sa carrière discographique. Dès 1965, il grave trois Caprices pour RCA, mais c'est en janvier 1972 qu'il apporte sa véritable pierre à l'édifice en enregistrant une intégrale qui fera date dans l'histoire du disque. Curieux hasard de la vie, c'est cette même année que meurt son illustre prédécesseur Michael Rabin, dont l'intégrale enregistrée en 1958 pour Capitol fut une source d'inspiration permanente pour le jeune Perlman.

Le miracle des Caprices c'est de ne pas être de banales études de virtuosité, mais de véritables chefs-d'œuvre dans lesquels l'auteur a concentré une synthèse de sa technique tout en faisant preuve d'une incroyable richesse d'invention mélodique. Pour preuve le vingt-quatrième d'entre eux, dont les thèmes ont inspiré tant de compositeurs : Brahms pour ses Variations op. 35, Rachmaninov pour sa Rhapsodie op. 43, Franz Liszt, Karol Szymanowski, Witold Lutosławski, George Rochberg, Alfred Schnittke, David Baker et tant d'autres. Ainsi rarement dans l'histoire de la musique un compositeur jugé mineur aura eu une aussi grande influence sur autant de compositeurs majeurs.

Dominer les Caprices, c'est un peu comme gravir l'Everest. Mais la maîtrise technique ne fait pas tout, la théâtralité et l'imagination s'imposent tout autant pour rendre justice à l'invention mélodique et à l'esprit fantasque de l'écriture. Gamme de timbres, respect des coups d'archet, clarté de l'articulation, pureté de l'intonation comme de l'émission représentent un défi de tous les instants. Quant à la prise de risque elle est une condition *sine qua non* pour se glisser dans la peau du créateur. Itzhak Perlman signe une version stupéfiante de facilité. Sans le moindre effort apparent, il y révèle ce charisme et cette aisance qui allaient faire sa gloire. Le sens inné du chant et un zeste d'humour font le reste, donnant à sa vision un charme irrésistible sur lequel le temps semble n'avoir aucune prise.

**Jean-Michel Molkhov**

## PAGANINI: 24 CAPRICEN FÜR VIOLINE SOLO

Gemeinsam mit den sechs Sonaten und Partiten von J.S. Bach gelten die 24 Capricen von Paganini als die ultimativen solistischen Herausforderungen, denen sich Geiger stellen können. Itzhak Perlman zählt zu jenen Interpreten, die beide Werkreihen aufgezeichnet haben, wobei er schon ganz zu Anfang seiner Aufnahmekarriere mit Paganini begann. Bereits 1965 nahm er drei Capricen für RCA auf. Wahrlich bedeutsam war jedoch erst seine Gesamtaufnahme vom Januar 1972, die sich zu einem Meilenstein der Plattengeschichte entwickelte. Ein seltsamer Zufall wollte es, dass in eben jenem Jahr sein berühmter Vorgänger Michael Rabin verstarb, dessen 1958 für Capitol aufgezeichnete Gesamtaufnahme eine stete Quelle der Inspiration für den jungen Perlman darstellte.

Das Wunder der Capricen besteht darin, dass es sich nicht einfach um banale Virtuositäts-Etüden handelt, sondern um echte Meisterwerke, in denen der Komponist seine technischen Möglichkeiten konzentriert und synthetisiert, wobei er gleichzeitig einen unglaublichen melodischen Erfindungsgeist beweist. Als Beispiel mag die Caprice Nr. 24 gelten, deren Themen so viele Komponisten inspirierten: Brahms (die Variationen op. 35), Rachmaninov (Rhapsodie op. 43) Franz Liszt, Karol Szymanowski, Witold Lutosławski, George Rochberg, Alfred Schnittke, David Baker und viele weitere. Nur selten findet sich in der Musikgeschichte ein generell als weniger bedeutend eingestufte Komponist, der einen derartig starken Einfluss auf so viele große Komponisten ausüben sollte.

Die Capricen zu meistern, ist ein bisschen, wie den Mount Everest zu besteigen. Doch technische Meisterschaft ist nicht alles, denn um dem melodischen Einfallsreichtum und der skurrilen Ader der Kompositionen gerecht zu werden, bedarf es zudem auch einer gewissen Theatralik und Fantasie. Die große Bandbreite an Klangfarben und Bogentechniken, die erforderliche Klarheit der Artikulation und Reinheit der Intonation wie auch die Klangprojektion stellen unablässige Herausforderungen dar. Risikobereitschaft ist eine unabdingbare Voraussetzung, um in die Haut des Schöpfers dieser Werke zu schlüpfen. Die scheinbar mühelose Leichtigkeit der Perlman'schen Interpretation verschlägt einem den Atem. Auf dieser Aufnahme zeigen sich jenes Charisma und jene Gewandtheit, die ihn berühmt machen sollten. Sein angeborener Sinn für Melodien und eine Prise Humor tun ihr Übriges, um seiner Vision der Capricen einen unwiderstehlichen Charme zu verleihen, dem die Zeit nichts anhaben kann.

**Jean-Michel Molkhou**

Übersetzung: Leandra Rhoese

# RECORDING LOCATIONS

Abbey Road Studios, 10 January 1972; Brent Town Hall, London, 11 & 12 January 1972

# PRODUCER

Suvi Raj Grubb

# BALANCE ENGINEER

Christopher Parker

# COVER PHOTO

Original cover artwork



**Itzhak Perlman**

Photo: Ken Veeder © Parlophone Records Limited



**Paganini:  
Concerto No.1  
Sarasate: Carmen  
Fantasy**  
(1972)  
Volume 01  
0825646074181  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Royal Philharmonic  
Orchestra  
Lawrence Foster



**Mendelssohn  
Bruch:  
Violin Concertos**  
(1973)  
Volume 05  
0825646074068  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
London Symphony  
Orchestra  
André Previn



**Saint-Saëns  
Chausson · Ravel**  
(1975)  
Volume 09  
0825646073979  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Orchestre de Paris  
Jean Martinon



**Vivaldi:  
The Four Seasons**  
(1976)  
Volume 13  
0825646073870  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
London Philharmonic  
Orchestra



**J.S. Bach:  
Violin Concertos  
Double Concertos**  
(1972 & 1975)  
Volume 02  
0825646074143  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Pinchas Zukerman  
violin  
Neil Black oboe  
English Chamber  
Orchestra  
Daniel Barenboim



**Bartók: Violin  
Concerto No.2**  
(1974)  
Volume 06  
0825646074044  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
London Symphony  
Orchestra  
André Previn



**Joplin: The Easy  
Winners & Other  
Rags**  
(1975)  
Volume 10  
0825646073955  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
André Previn *piano*



**Bruch:  
Scottish Fantasy  
Violin Concerto  
No.2**  
(1977)  
Volume 14  
0825646073856  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
New Philharmonia  
Orchestra  
Jesús López-Cobos



**Paganini:  
24 Caprices**  
(1972)  
Volume 03  
0825646074136  
**Itzhak Perlman**



**Encores**  
(1974 & 1979)  
Volume 07  
0825646074013  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Samuel Sanders *piano*



**Stravinsky:  
Divertimento  
Suite Italienne  
Duo concertant**  
(1976)  
Volume 11  
0825646073931  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Bruno Canino *piano*



**Brahms:  
Violin Concerto**  
(1977)  
Volume 15  
0825646073832  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Chicago Symphony  
Orchestra  
Carlo Maria Giulini



**Wieniawski: Violin  
Concertos 1 & 2**  
(1973)  
Volume 04  
0825646074082  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
London Philharmonic  
Orchestra  
Seiji Ozawa



**Dvořák:  
Violin Concerto  
Romance**  
(1975)  
Volume 08  
0825646073993  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
London Philharmonic  
Orchestra  
Daniel Barenboim



**Itzhak Perlman  
plays Fritz Kreisler**  
(1980)  
Volume 12  
0825646073894  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Samuel Sanders *piano*



**Duets for two  
violins**  
(1977)  
Volume 16  
0825646073801  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Pinchas Zukerman  
violin



**Goldmark: Violin Concerto No.1**  
**Sarasate: Zigeunerweisen**  
 (1977)  
 Volume 17  
 0825646072743  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
 André Previn



**Sibelius: Violin Concerto**  
**Sinding: Suite**  
 (1980)  
 Volume 21  
 0825646073719  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
 André Previn



**The Baroque Album**  
**Oboe Quartets**  
**Trio Sonatas**  
 (1982)  
 Volume 25  
 0825646079117  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Pinchas Zukerman  
*viola/violin*  
 Ray Still oboe  
 Lynn Harrell cello  
 Timothy Eddy cello  
 Samuel Sanders  
*harpsichord*



**Prokofiev: Violin Concertos**  
 (1982)  
 Volume 29  
 0825646079049  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 BBC Symphony Orchestra  
 Gennady Rozhdestvensky



**Vieuxtemps: Violin Concertos**  
 Nos. 4 in D major & No. 5 in A minor  
 (1978)  
 Volume 18  
 0825646073788  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Orchestre de Paris  
 Daniel Barenboim



**Brahms: Double Concerto**  
 (1980)  
 Volume 22  
 0825646073696  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Mstislav Rostropovich  
*cello*  
 Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra  
 Bernard Haitink



**Tchaikovsky: Piano Trio**  
 (1981)  
 Volume 26  
 0825646073603  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Vladimir Ashkenazy  
*piano*  
 Lynn Harrell *cello*



**Khachaturian: Violin Concerto**  
**Tchaikovsky: Méditation**  
 (1984)  
 Volume 30  
 0825646079032  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
 Zubin Mehta



**Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto**  
**Sérénade mélancolique**  
 (1979)  
 Volume 19  
 0825646073757  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Philadelphia Orchestra  
 Eugene Ormandy



**The Spanish Album**  
 (1980)  
 Volume 23  
 0825646073672  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Samuel Sanders *piano*



**Korngold · Conus: Violin Concertos**  
 (1981)  
 Volume 27  
 0825646079094  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
 André Previn



**J.S. Bach: Violin Concertos**  
 (1984)  
 Volume 31  
 0825646079018  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Ray Still oboe  
 Israel Philharmonic Orchestra



**Moszkowski**  
**Shostakovich**  
**Prokofiev: Duets for two violins**  
**Bartók: 44 Duos for two violins**  
 (1981)  
 Volume 20  
 0825646073740  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Pinchas Zukerman  
*violin*  
 Samuel Sanders *piano*



**Previn: A Different Kind of Blues**  
**It's a Breeze**  
 (1981)  
 Volume 24  
 0825646079124  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 André Previn *piano*  
 Shelly Manne *drums*  
 Jim Hall *guitar*  
 Red Mitchell *bass*



**Beethoven: Violin Concerto**  
 (1981)  
 Volume 28  
 0825646079070  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Philharmonia Orchestra  
 Carlo Maria Giulini



**Vivaldi: The Four Seasons Violin Concertos**  
 (1985)  
 Volume 32  
 0825646079001  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
 Israel Philharmonic Orchestra



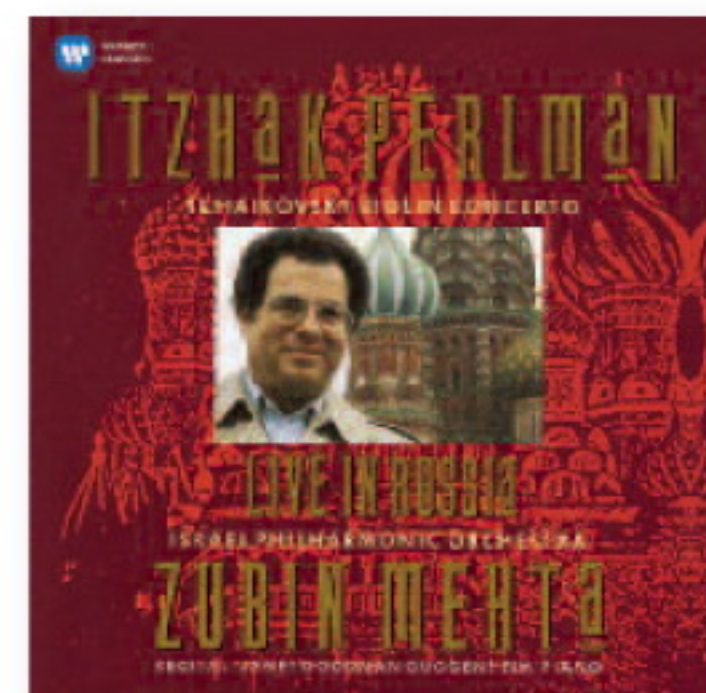
**Mendelssohn Bruch: Violin Concertos**  
(1984)  
Volume 33  
0825646078998  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Concertgebouw Orchestra  
Bernard Haitink



**Beethoven: Complete Piano Trios**  
(1986)  
Volume 37  
0825646078943  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Vladimir Ashkenazy piano  
Lynn Harrell cello



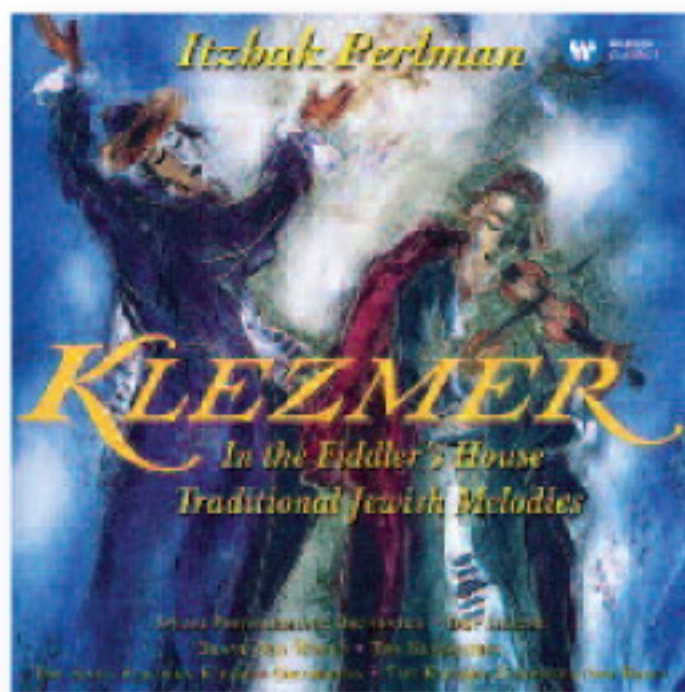
**J.S. Bach: Sonatas & Partitas**  
(1988)  
Volume 41  
0825646078882  
**Itzhak Perlman**



**Live in Russia**  
(1990)  
Volume 45  
0825646078813  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Janet Goodman  
Guggenheim piano  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Zubin Mehta



**Kim Starer: Violin Concertos**  
(1985)  
Volume 34  
0825646078981  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Boston Symphony Orchestra  
Seiji Ozawa



**Tradition and Klezmer**  
(1996)  
Volume 38  
0825646078936  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra/Dov Seltzer  
Brave Old World  
The Andy Statman  
Klezmer Orchestra  
The Klezmatics  
The Klezmer Conservatory Band



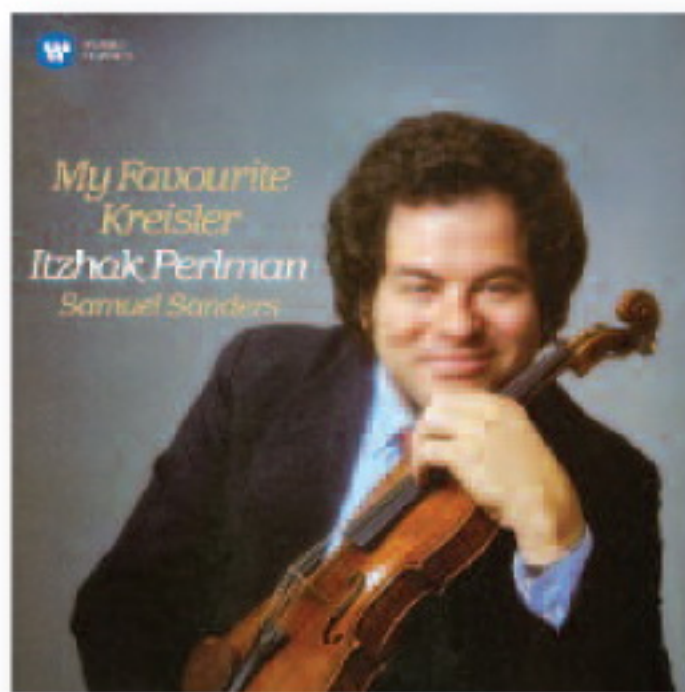
**Beethoven: Violin Concerto Romance 1 & 2**  
(1989)  
Volume 42  
0825646078875  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Berliner Philharmoniker  
Daniel Barenboim



**Together**  
(1991)  
Volume 46  
0825646078806  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Plácido Domingo tenor  
New York Studio Orchestra  
Jonathan Tunick



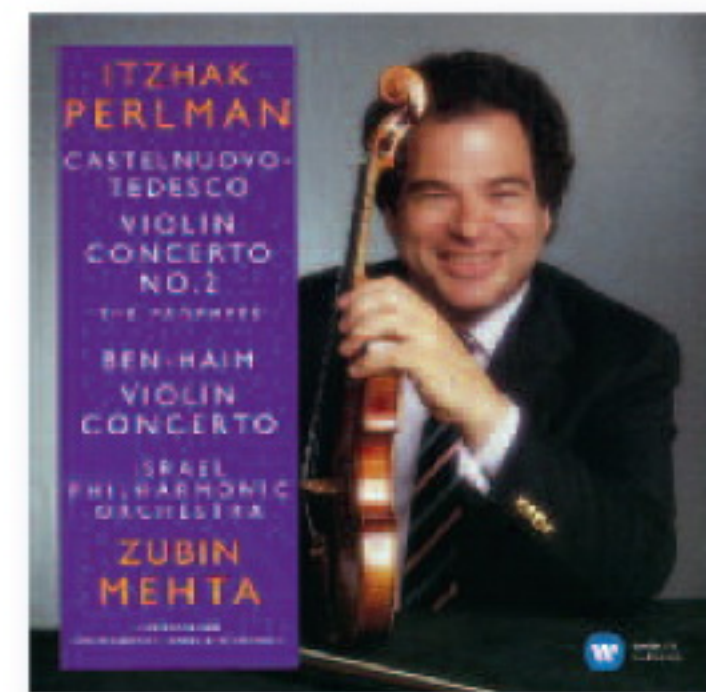
**Brahms: Violin Sonatas Hungarian Dances**  
(1985)  
Volume 35  
0825646078974  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Vladimir Ashkenazy piano



**Itzhak Perlman plays Fritz Kreisler**  
(1987)  
Volume 39  
0825646078905  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Samuel Sanders piano



**A Tribute to Jascha Heifetz**  
(1989)  
Volume 43  
0825646078868  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Samuel Sanders piano



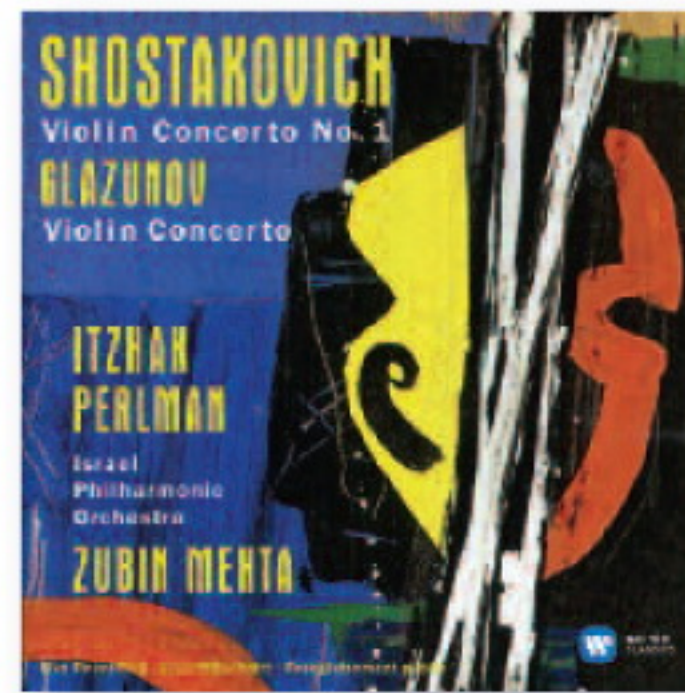
**Castelnuovo-Tedesco Ben-Haim: Violin Concertos**  
(1992)  
Volume 47  
0825646078783  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Zubin Mehta



**Dvořák: Sonatina in G Four Romantic Pieces**  
**Smetana: Z domoviny (From My Homeland)**  
(1985)  
Volume 36  
0825646078967  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Samuel Sanders piano



**Bruch: Scottish Fantasy Violin Concerto No. 2**  
(1988)  
Volume 40  
0825646078899  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Zubin Mehta



**Shostakovich Glazunov: Violin Concertos**  
(1989)  
Volume 44  
0825646078844  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Zubin Mehta



**Beethoven: Complete String Trios**  
(1992)  
Volume 48  
0825646078776  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Pinchas Zukerman viola  
Lynn Harrell cello



**Brahms: Violin Concerto**  
(1992)  
Volume 49  
0825646078769  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Berliner  
Philharmoniker  
Daniel Barenboim



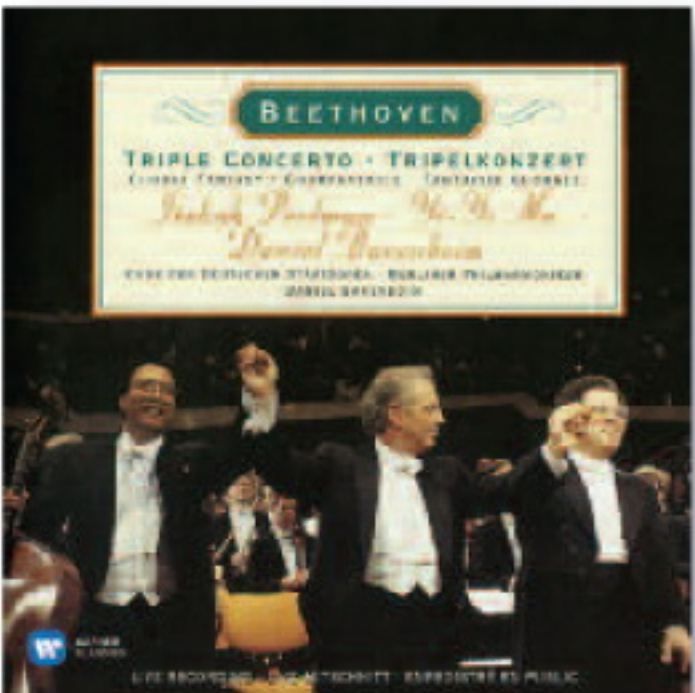
**À la carte**  
(1995)  
Volume 53  
0825646078707  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
The Abbey Road  
Ensemble  
Lawrence Foster



**Beethoven: "Kreutzer" Sonata**  
**Franck: Violin Sonata**  
(1999)  
Volume 57  
0825646078653  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Martha Argerich piano



**Bits and Pieces**  
(1994)  
Volume 50  
0825646078745  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Samuel Sanders piano

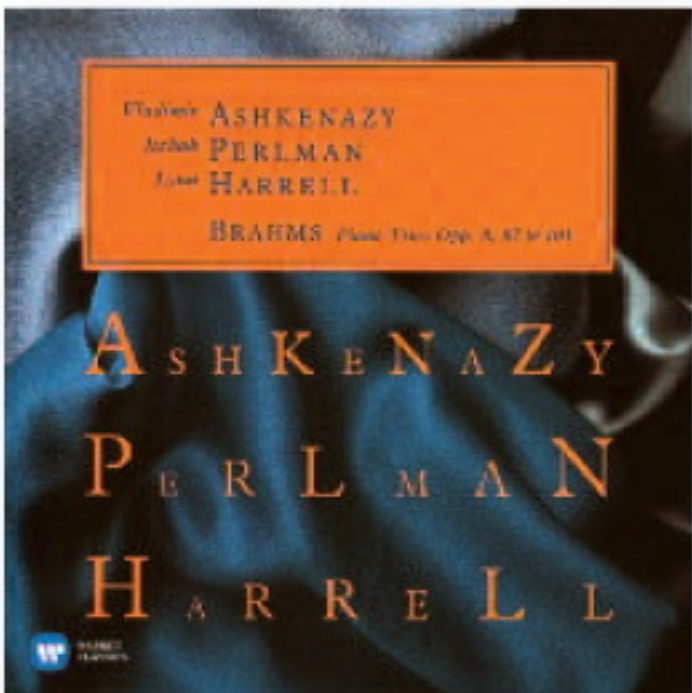


**Beethoven: Triple Concerto**  
**Fantasy for piano, chorus and orchestra**  
(1995)  
Volume 54  
0825646078691  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Yo-Yo Ma cello  
Daniel Barenboim piano  
Chor der Deutschen  
Staatsoper/Ernst Stoy

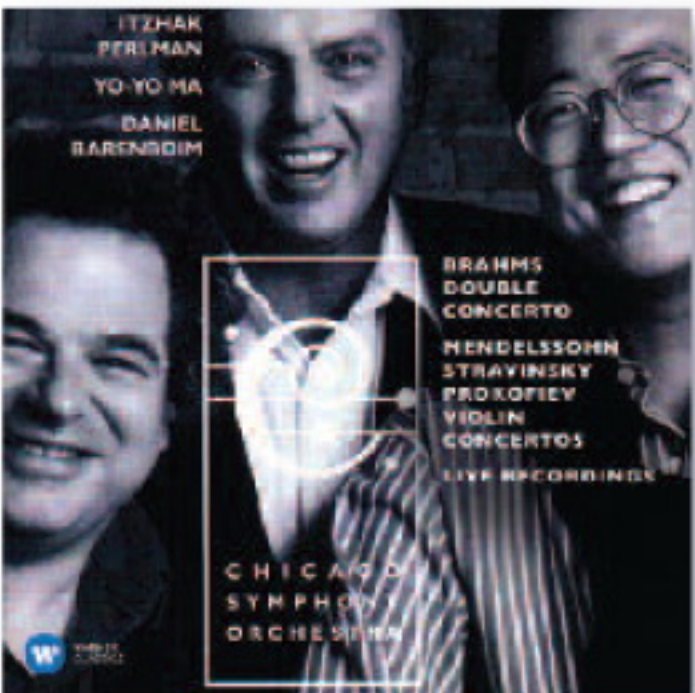
Berliner Philharmoniker/ Daniel Barenboim



**Mozart: Violin Concerto No.3**  
**Symphony No.41 "Jupiter"**  
(2002)  
Volume 58  
0825646078646  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Berliner  
Philharmoniker  
Itzhak Perlman



**Johannes Brahms: The Piano Trios**  
(1994)  
Volume 51  
0825646078738  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Vladimir Ashkenazy piano  
Lynn Harrell cello



**The Erato & Teldec Recordings**  
(1997)  
Volume 55  
0825646078684  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Yo-Yo Ma cello  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Daniel Barenboim



**Itzhak Perlman: Narrator**  
(1982)  
Volume 59  
0825646078639  
**Itzhak Perlman: Speaker & Singer**  
Renata Scotto soprano  
Plácido Domingo tenor  
Katia Labèque piano  
Marielle Labèque piano

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra/Zubin Mehta  
Plácido Domingo  
Philharmonia Orchestra/James Levine



**The American Album**  
(1995)  
Volume 52  
0825646078714  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
Boston Symphony Orchestra  
Seiji Ozawa



**Concertos from my Childhood**  
(1999)  
Volume 56  
0825646078677  
**Itzhak Perlman**  
The Juilliard Orchestra  
Lawrence Foster



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