



E193HD

NICCOLÓ PAGANINI

24 Caprices Op.1

CELESTE WILLIAMS, *Violin*

NICCOLÓ PAGANINI, (1782-1840)

24 Caprices, Op.1

Caprice I, <i>Andante</i>	2:09
Caprice II, <i>Moderato</i>	4:16
Caprice III, <i>Sostenuto-Presto</i>	3:29
Caprice IV, <i>Maestoso</i>	9:04
Caprice V, <i>Agitati</i>	3:36
Caprice VI, <i>Lento</i>	5:50
Caprice VII, <i>Posato</i>	5:57
Caprice VIII, <i>Maestoso</i>	4:13
Caprice IX, <i>Allegretto</i>	4:08
Caprice X, <i>Vivace</i>	4:13
Caprice XI, <i>Andante-Presto</i>	5:53
Caprice XII, <i>Allegro</i>	4:23
Caprice XIII, <i>Allegro</i>	3:14
Caprice XIV, <i>Moderato</i>	1:28
Caprice XV, <i>Posato</i>	3:50
Caprice XVI, <i>Presto</i>	1:34
Caprice XVII, <i>Sostenuto-Andante</i>	4:52
Caprice XVIII, <i>Corrente</i>	3:49
Caprice XIX, <i>Lento-Allegro assai</i>	5:38
Caprice XX, <i>Allegretto</i>	3:52
Caprice XXI, <i>Amoroso</i>	4:20
Caprice XXII, <i>Marcato</i>	4:28
Caprice XXIII, <i>Posato</i>	4:39
Caprice XXIV, <i>Quasi presto</i>	6:36



Celeste Williams

NICCOLÓ PAGANINI

Niccoló Paganini was born in Genoa, Italy, Oct 27, 1782. He was the third of six children born to Teresa and Antonio Paganini. A violinist, composer and brilliant improvisateur, sometimes called “*the Devil’s Violinist*”, Niccoló Paganini’s virtuoso talent, accompanied by his extraordinary dexterity and flexibility, gave him an almost mythic reputation. He has been considered by many to be the greatest violinist of all time.

Paganini’s novel sound, bizarre appearance, eccentric lifestyle, riveting stage presence, mass appeal and monster showmanship, greatly influenced the course of music performance by inventing the cult of the performer. Before him, even the most talented, charismatic and successful musicians were at best respected, lived merely comfortably, and were quickly forgotten upon their retirement or demise. Paganini, however, was worshipped, rewarded with fabulous wealth, and remembered in awe.

Audiences are also said to have been moved to tears at his execution of tender passages. With Paganini, the performer became a superstar. Such virtuosity and showmanship risked being viewed skeptically by other professionals. Paganini, however, managed not only to astound but impress all the most respected musicians of his time, including Rossini, Schubert, Chopin and Schumann, who understood that his unprecedented skills vastly expanded the resources available that he rededicated his life to transforming piano technique to embrace Paganini's innovations. Nor did the legend dissipate after Paganini's death in 1840 as famed composers of later generations, including Brahms and Rachmaninoff, paid him the ultimate tribute by writing major compositions using his themes and techniques.

The **24 Caprices for solo violin** were thought to have been written between 1801 and 1807 and published in 1820. Dedicated **"to the Artists"** rather than to a specific person, they are among the most complex and difficult works ever written for the instrument, comprising a distillation of nearly all his prized techniques in phenomenally difficult settings. His technical innovations were imitated

by later virtuosos, notably *Pablo Sarasate* and *Eugene Ysaye*. Paganini also challenged musicians with such compositions as his *12 Sonatas for violin and guitar*; *6 Violin concerti*; and *6 Quartets for violin, viola, cello, and guitar*.



Recorded by Sean Murray at the *Sala Capítular of the Real Basílica of San Francisco el Grande*, Madrid, 2011.

Celeste Williams plays on a 1912 Edoardo Marchetti violin, (on loan from Ifan Williams), gut strings.

Soundfield microphones.

