



FOREWORD

Some musical loves begin early. For me, it was Beethoven's Violin Concerto – one of the very first pieces I ever heard. I was eight years old when I fell in love with this magnificent work, and it has remained a constant source of inspiration ever since. It was the music that made me fall in love with the violin. Full of enthusiasm, I tried to play the famous Rondo during my very first violin lessons. Fortunately, I had a wise teacher who advised me to wait a little longer. But as youthful passion goes, I couldn't let it go.

Over the years, I kept returning to the concerto. It has always been a driving force in my development as a violinist. Still, it took a long time before I had the chance to perform it in full with an orchestra. That very first time is what you now hear on this recording.

The idea to make a film recording came about together with the Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra. Choosing the repertoire was easy: if I could capture one work on film, it had to be Beethoven. Some thought it was a bold decision to record the concerto during my first-ever performance of it, but I wanted to preserve the power of that moment – pure, honest, and spontaneous.

That morning, we rehearsed for three hours, took a short break, and then recorded the concerto – both in audio and video. The filmed performance is available on my website and can easily be found online. As is often the case with masterpieces like this, the concerto will continue to accompany me throughout my life. My interpretation will keep evolving, and that's exactly why I'm so grateful to have captured this moment in my musical journey.

My sincere thanks go to the friends and sponsors who helped make this recording possible – and especially to the Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra and concertmaster Michael Waterman, for their wonderful playing, trust, and dedication to this project.

I hope you enjoy listening as much as we enjoyed creating it.

— Niek Baar



PELLE D'OCA

Pelle D'oca — Italian for goosebumps.
The name alone whispers what the music promises:
those rare, electric moments when sound brushes the skin
and memories awaken,
carried from the past by a single note.

Music has always done that for me —
called back forgotten feelings,
wrapped time in melody.
With this new label, I hope to pass that experience on to you.

Pelle D'oca is not just a name;
it's a commitment —
to artists of the highest caliber
and to sound so pure, it disappears,
leaving only the music
and the emotion it stirs.

— Jared Sacks, founder

COLOPHON

PD25001 - Niek Baar - violin | Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra
Beethoven Violin Concerto in D op.61
1 Allegro ma non troppo (24.57)
2. Larghetto (9.28), Rondo (9.25)

Total time 44.10

Pure DSD 256

Production: Kerkenstein Productions
Producer, Recording Engineer, mastering: Jared Sacks
DSD Mastering Engineer: Tom Caulfield
Recording Location: De Duif - Amsterdam
Recording Date: April, 2024
Microphones: Brüel & Kjaer 4006, Schoeps
Digital Converter: Horus / Merging Technologies (DSD 256FS)
Editing Software: Pyramix Workstation
Pre-Amplifiers: Rens Heijnis - custom made
Mastering Room: Grimm LS1
All Cables: Van den Hul

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