

Antonin Dvorak – Violin Concerto In A minor (Menuhin) [1936]

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1. *Allegro non troppo*
2. *Adagio ma non troppo*
3. *Finale. Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo*

Yehudi Menuhin – violin
Paris Conservatoire Orchestra
George Enescu – conductor

...The Dvorak is another matter altogether. Menuhin does not really sink his teeth into this music, whose lyrical beauty and racy rhythms seem to elude him at every turn. Parts of the middle of the third movement, for instance, sound like repetitive sawing back and forth without any sense of inflection or understanding. The soloist receives hardly any support from the listless, flabby playing of the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra, conducted without much idiomatic flair by his teacher, Georges Enescu. Much to my amazement, even Naxos' own annotator dismisses this performance as being second rate, admitting that neither Menuhin nor Enescu "bring anything special to the music." Thus, as a document of this well-loved concerto, one is better served turning to more modern exemplars such as Suk, and more recently, Vengerov, Tetzlaff, and Suwanai. ---classicstoday.com

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