

Henri Vieuxtemps - Cello Concertos 1 & 2 (Wen-Sinn Yang) [2016]

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Cello Concerto No. 1 Op. 46 in A minor 1.1. *Allegro moderato* 2.2. *Andante* 3.3. *Finale: Allegro*
Cello Concerto No. 2 Op. 50 in B minor 4.1. *Allegro* 5.2. *Adagio* 6.3. *Finale: Allegro con moto* 7. *Capriccio c-moll op. 55 "Hommage à Paganini"*

Wen-Sinn Yang – cello Evergreen Symphony Orchestra Gernot Schmalfuss - conductor

The Belgian composer Henri Vieuxtemps was one of the most important violinists of the nineteenth century and therefore first and foremost preferred to compose violin concertos. His two cello concertos are not as familiar as his violin concertos. In concert guides Vieuxtemps is frequently assigned to the virtuoso school of the nineteenth century, but this limiting judgment hardly does justice to his tonally beautiful, skillfully instrumented, and symphonically designed works. Nevertheless, his cello compositions number among the masterpieces penned by him. These are most highly effective works with fiery passages as well as many delightful ones. The encore on this CD, his *Capriccio op. 55*, was originally written for the viola, an instrument that he likewise enjoyed playing. It too was first published after its composer's death and is designated as a musical »Homage to Paganini.« In his twenty-four *Caprices op. 1* for violin the Italian »devil of a violinist« Niccolò Paganini had presented exemplary models for highly effective solo numbers, and Vieuxtemps too admired this epochal musician, whom he first heard play in London in 1834. His work is energized by sumptuous multiple stops clearly generating more power on the cello than on the viola. ---jpc.de

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