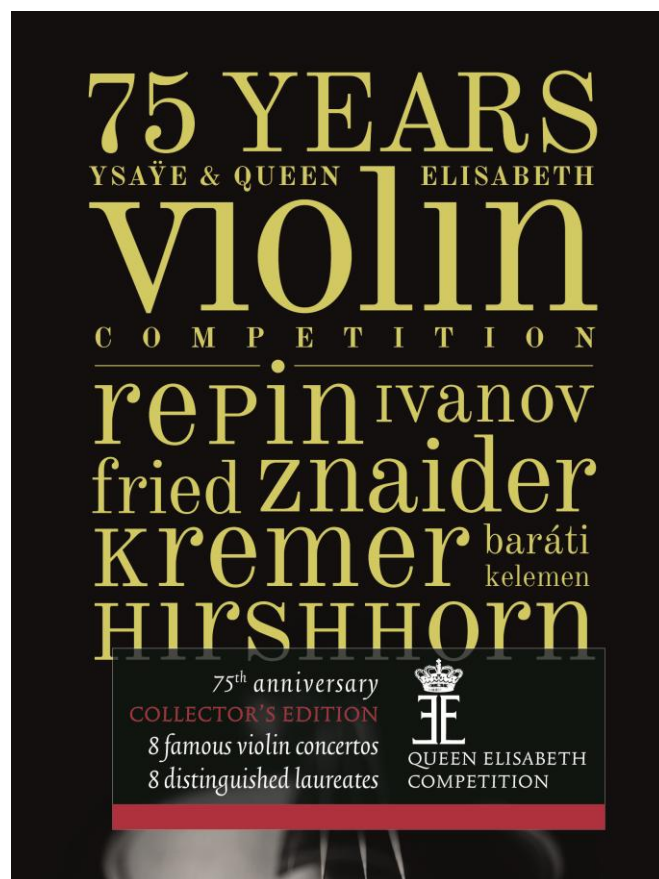


NEW RELEASE MUSO

15 November 2011

- CD1** **Pyotr TCHAIKOVSKY** - Concerto in D major op. 35
Vadim Repin (Russia, 1st prize 1989)
Jean SIBELIUS - Concerto in D minor op. 47
Nikolaj Znaider (Denmark, 1st prize 1997)
- CD2** **Edward ELGAR** - Concerto in B minor op. 61
Gidon Kremer (Latvia, 3rd prize 1967)
Nicolò PAGANINI - Concerto n. 1 in D major op. 6
Philippe Hirshhorn (Latvia, 1st prize 1967)
- CD3** **Ludwig van BEETHOVEN** - Concerto in D major op. 61
Kristóf Baráti (Hungary, 3rd prize 1997)
Felix MENDELSSOHN - Concerto in E minor op. 64
Miriam Fried (Israel, 1st prize 1971)
- CD4** **Dmitry SHOSTAKOVICH** - Cto n. 1 in A minor op. 77 (99)
Yossif Ivanov (Belgium, 2nd prize 2005)
Béla BARTÓK - Concerto n. 2
Barnabás Kelemen (Hungary, 3rd prize 2001)

Orchestre National de Belgique
Orchestre Royal Philharmonique des Flandres
Orchestre Symphonique de la RTB / BRT
René Defossez - Georges Octors - Marc Soustrot -
Daniel Sternefeld - Gilbert Varga, *direction*



In 2012 the Queen Elisabeth Music Competition will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Eugène Ysaÿe Competition. In association with the muso label, the Queen Elisabeth Competition has drawn on its extensive archives of unreleased recordings to put together a 4CD box set containing 8 of the most celebrated violin concertos as performed by some of the laureates who have made their mark on the history of the Competition. Handsomely presented as a CD-book, with texts, photographs, and reminiscences by laureates, the set contains live recordings made between 1967 and 2005, which were painstakingly remastered in 2011 in order to ensure optimal sound quality for today's listeners.

Founded in 1937 on the initiative of Queen Elisabeth, the first Ysaÿe Competition brought to Brussels a number of talented young violinists and a jury that would be the stuff of dreams for any lover of the instrument - and the name of the first laureate showed just how high the standard was: David Oistrakh! After an interruption caused by the Second World War, the Competition was revived in 1951, when it took the name of its patron: in future it would be known as the Queen Elisabeth Music Competition. The list of the laureates who have succeeded each other onstage at the 'Palais des Beaux-Arts' over its 75 years is dazzling: Kogan, Senofsky, Sitkovetsky, Laredo, Michlin, Hirshhorn, Kremer, Fried, Horigome, Repin, Znaider, Skride, and Khachatryan, to name but a few.

The set opens in 1967 with the Paganini Concerto, played by **Philippe Hirshhorn** - the quality of sound on this newly restored recording offers an opportunity to rediscover this great artist and teacher, who died in 1996, but not before he had influenced several generations of musicians - and the Elgar Concerto as interpreted by **Gidon Kremer**, never previously available on disc! It continues with performances by **Miriam Fried** in Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky's indispensable concerto from **Vadim Repin** in 1989, and an equally memorable performance of the Sibelius Concerto by **Nikolaj Znaider** from 1997, the same year as **Kristóf Baráti's** superb Beethoven concerto. The compilation concludes with two laureates from the past decade: the Hungarian violinist **Barnabás Kelemen** in the Bartók Concerto and, finally, Belgium's own **Yossif Ivanov** in the Shostakovich.

Eight concertos, eight artists, eight sensibilities, and eight very different sonorities can be enjoyed in these performances, each of which in its own way struck a chord with the jury and audience of the Queen Elisabeth Music Competition.

4CD box set

Total time: 4h43'03

Digibook (DVD format) / Booklet 32 pages

Liner notes by Michel Stockhem in English, French and Dutch

Live recordings 1967-2005, remastered and restored in 2011

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