

# Niccolo Paganini - Violin Concerto op. 6 no. 1

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Shlomo Mintz

Limburg Symphony Orchestra Maastricht - Yoel Levi

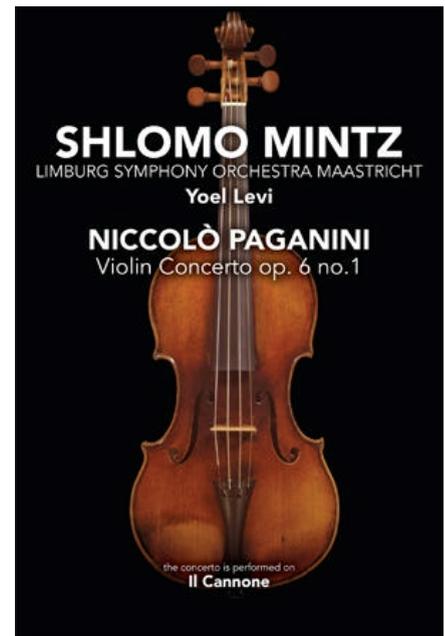
the concerto is performed on Il Cannone

## The Virtuoso

Probably the most famous violinist in history, Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840) was a virtuosic player of unsurpassed proportions, before or since. After hearing him play in Vienna, Schubert described how he had 'heard an angel sing'. Paganini was a man of great magnetism, whose performances were remarkable for the display of immense skill, technical ability and musicianship. When performing standard repertoire, Paganini sometimes encountered criticism for not remaining faithful to the score, but performances of his own compositions like the 24 Caprices received great acclaim as here he was able to truly express himself.

## Violin Concerto in D major op. 6 no. 1

Paganini's D major Concerto is the nearest that a poor violinist can get to the bravura display of Italian grand opera. Here, at last, his reward is similar to the tenor's and the coloratura soprano's, although nowadays, except in certain cities in Italy, the audiences are too well trained to acknowledge a high "C" with demonstrative approval!



### Shlomo Mintz

Shlomo Mintz is regarded as one of the foremost violinists of our time. He was a pupil of the legendary Ilona Feher and studied later on in New York with Dorothy Delay and Isaac Stern. Shlomo Mintz made his debut at the age of 11 with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta and at the age of 16 at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Mr. Mintz regularly appears with the most celebrated orchestras and conductors and is heard in recitals and chamber music concerts all around the world.

As a recipient of several prestigious music prizes including the Premio Accademia Musicale Chigiana, the Diapason d'Or, the Grand Prix du Disque, the Gramophone Award he continues with a busy recording

schedule. His latest recordings of all Brahms Sonatas and all Mozart concertos were highly recommended by all reviews. From 1989-1993 Shlomo Mintz became Music Advisor and conductor of the Israel Chamber Orchestra, and later on of the Maastricht Symphony.

### Yoel Levi, conductor

Yoel Levi is a musician and conductor. Born in 1950 in Romania, he grew up in Israel. He studied at the Tel Aviv Academy of Music, earning a Master of Arts degree with distinction. He also studied at the Jerusalem Academy of Music under Mendi Rodan. Levi has also studied with Franco Ferrara in Sienna and Rome, with Kiril Kondrashin in the Netherlands, and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. In 1988, Levi became the music director and principal conductor for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He conducted the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra at the 1991 Nobel Prize Ceremony. Under him, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra played at the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. As of 2001, he is music advisor and principal conductor of the Flemish Radio Orchestra and is the Principal Guest Conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Levi's conducting engagements have included appearances with the leading orchestras all over the world

### Limburg Symphony Orchestra Maastricht

The Limburg Symphony Orchestra Maastricht was founded in 1883 as Maastricht Municipal Orchestra. The LSO plays a significant role in the cultural life of Limburg, the province in the south-eastern part of the Netherlands. Their home is the "Theater aan het Vrijthof" in Maastricht, the beautiful Burgundian capital of Limburg. Shlomo Mintz has been Artistic Advisor and Principal Guest Conductor from 1995-1998