



**artists:** Philippe Graffin, violin  
 Claire Désert, piano  
**title:** Fiddler's Blues  
 Debussy, Enescu, Ravel, Ysaÿe  
**price:** Full price  
**release date:** 1 February 2019  
**selection number:** AV 2399  
**bar code:** 822252239928

**about the release**

Philippe Graffin's virtuosity combined with his skills as a sleuth have led to the **world-premiere recording** of a "Posthumous" solo violin sonata by Eugène Ysaÿe, an astonishing discovery that extends the Belgian composer's canon of his essential six sonatas for the medium. Philippe unearthed the nearly-completed manuscript in the library of the Brussels Conservatoire, and

polished off the final movement in the most Ysaÿe-esque manner possible. Philippe's penchant for intuitive programming is brought to bear on *Fiddler's Blues*, combining two Ysaÿe works – including another premiere, the *Petite fantaisie romantique* – with a pair of folksy, Bohemian-flavoured works by George Enescu, another virtuoso violinist / composer who emigrated from his native Romania and like Ysaÿe settled in Paris. Enescu was a classmate of Maurice Ravel whose *Berceuse sur le nom de Gabriel Faure* is an affectionate nod to their teacher at the Paris Conservatoire, whilst his azure-tinged *Violin Sonata* influences the album's title. Ravel's slightly older contemporary Claude Debussy befriended Ysaÿe. Whereas Ysaÿe soared writing works for solo violin, Debussy wrote none. Suggesting how such a work may have sounded, Philippe contributes his own arrangement for solo violin, made together with David Matthews, of Debussy's enduring piano piece *Claire de lune*.

**critical acclaim for Philippe Graffin**

"The ten playful miniatures that make up Enescu's Op. 28, and Ravel's early Sonata, are impeccably shaped by Graffin and Désert, making this a disc for those who value exquisite refinement above all." – *BBC Music Magazine* (on *In the Shade of Forests*, AV2059)

"Graffin plays with such vibrant character and imagination, and the whole venture radiates such a life-affirming spontaneity and joy in music-making" – *Gramophone* (on the world-premiere recording of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Violin Concerto*, AV0044)

**summary**

The world-premiere recording of Eugène Ysaÿe's "Posthumous" solo violin opens the album *Fiddler's Blues*, the latest collaboration between violinist Philippe Graffin and pianist Claire Désert. What follows is an ingenious intersection of works by Paris-based violinists, composers and friends – Debussy, Enescu and Ravel.

**tracklist**

- Eugène Ysaÿe (1858 – 1931)
- Sonate posthume for violin solo (9.14) \*
- 1. I. (3.38)
- 2. II. (3.30)
- 3. III. (2.06)
- Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)
- Violin Sonata No. 2 in G (17.09)
- 4. I. Allegretto (7.44)
- 5. II. Blues: Moderato (5.26)
- 6. III. Perpetuum mobile: Allegro (3.58)
- Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)
- 7. Claire de lune (5.04) \*

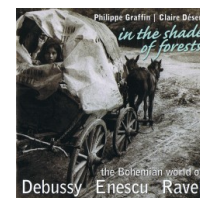
*transcribed for solo violin by Philippe Graffin and David Matthews; dedicated to Eugène Ysaÿe*

- Eugène Ysaÿe (1858 – 1931)
- 8. Petite Fantaisie romantique (4.59) \*

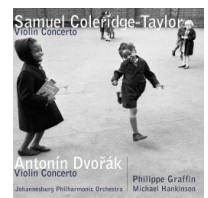
- George Enescu (1881 – 1955)
- Violin Sonata No. 3 in A minor, Op. 25 (26.08)
- 'Dans le caractère populaire roumain'
- 9. I. Moderato malinconico (9.20)
- 10. II. Andantino sostenuto e misterioso (8.25)
- 11. III. Allegro con brio, ma non troppo mosso (8.23)
- Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)
- 12. Berceuse sur le nom de Gabriel Fauré (2.43)
- George Enescu (1881 – 1955)
- 13. Hora Unirii (1:52)
- Total time:** 68.15

\* world-premiere recordings

**also available**



In the Shade of Forests:  
 The Bohemian World of Debussy,  
 Enescu and Ravel  
 AV2059



Coleridge-Taylor,  
 Dvorak Violin  
 Concertos  
 AV0044

# MARKETING AND PROMOTION

---

## ***media targets***

Classical, Strings

## ***advertising and marketing***

Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, The Strad, Strings, Facebook, promotional film

## ***digital***

Apple Music / iTunes feature placement; Spotify playlisting

## ***editorial and reviews***

Strad magazine: feature on Ysaÿe in February 2019, “Masterclass” on Ravel Sonata in May 2019  
Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, The Strad, Strings, Violinist.com, The Violin Channel

## ***airplay***

Classic FM, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 3, Radio France

## ***key territories***

UK, US, France, Belgium, Romania

## ***lead / instant grat tracks***

Track 1 – Ysaÿe *Sonate posthume for violin solo: Mvt. I*

Track 12 – Ravel *Berceuse sur le nom de Gabriel Faure*

Track 13 – Enescu *Hora Unirii*

## ***social media***

AVIE Records: Facebook – 1,030; Twitter – 1,500

## ***independent pr***

n/a