

American Record Guide

KABALEVSKY: *Cello Concerto 1*;
MENDELSSOHN: *Sonata 2*;
JOLIVET: *Suite en Concert*

Erling Blondal Bengtsson; Anker Blyme, p; Iceland Symphony/ Jean-Pierre Jacquillat
Danacord 740 — 59 minutes

The third of Danacord's tributes to cellist Bengtsson. It contains a variety of composers and modes of expression, beginning with the light-hearted and excitingly rhythmic concerto by Dmitri Kabalevsky. The orchestra is technically competent, but the recording doesn't really give the score the clarity it deserves. Then we have Mendelssohn's fine and lively Sonata in D, played with fervor by Bengtsson but with a little less than total accuracy by Blyme. Finally, the cellist is left to his own devices in the 15-minute solo suite of Andre Jolivet (1905-74). This is a work of some tonal abstraction but considerable variety and virtuosity.

Bengtsson plays all of these with polish and intensity of feeling. The recording does him justice somewhat at the expense of his partners, particularly the orchestra. In other words, this is a tribute to Bengtsson and no one else. He is well worth hearing, but this should not be your only recording of the Kabalevsky and Mendelssohn.

D MOORE