

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 290

Julian Sitkovetsky plays Sibelius & Paganini Concertos

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

Julian (Yulian) Sitkovetsky (7 November 1925, Kiev - 23 February 1958, Moscow) was a Russian-Ukrainian violin player.

He started violin lesson at age 4, first with father, then with David Bertie at the Central School in Kiev. As a child prodigy, he was chosen to play for Jacques Thibaud at age 8. One year later, he played the Mendelssohn concerto with the Kiev Symphony. In 1939, he enrolled in the Moscow Central Music School, class of Abram Yampolsky, whose students include Leonid Kogan, Igor Besrodny and Rotislav Dubinsky.

In 1945 Julian Sitkovetsky was winner of the All Soviet Union Young Performers Competition of piano, cello and violin (Sviatoslav Richter and Mstislav Rostropovich were the winners in piano and cello). In 1947, he shared First Prize at the Prague Festival with Leonid Kogan and Igor Besrodny.

He married pianist Bella Davidovich in 1950 and their son Dmitry Sitkovetsky (now an eminent violinist and conductor) was born 2 years later.

In 1952, he shared Second prize in the Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition with Wanda Wilkomirska (first prize was Igor Oistrakh). In 1955 he won Second Prize at the Queen Elizabeth Music Competition. (Of which Yehudi Menuhin said: "...David Oistrakh and I were on the jury...he should have had First Prize...").

Julian Sitkovetsky never toured much, as he was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1956. He died in 1958, at age 32.

Joseph Magil, critic (himself a violinist and violist) of the American Record Guide, said of him: "...David Oistrakh said that, had he lived, Sitkovetsky would have eclipsed him and Kogan...He had a broad, firm, focused tone in all registers; flawless intonation; a rapid, even trill; a swift, perfectly controlled staccato; strong, immaculate harmonics; an even, clear sautillé..."

Notes from Wikipedia

Recording and restoration notes

The Sibelius concerto recording by Julian Sitkovetsky came to me in a collection of discs transferred for Pristine Classical's streaming audio service by Dr. John Duffy, accompanied by another recording made by Anossov with the Czech Philharmonic. The name Sitkovetsky rang a bell - a few years ago we briefly issued a recent live recording made locally by his son, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, also a world-renowned violinist - and when I heard the performance here I determined to find out more.

Alas Julian Sitkovetsky's recordings are understandably few, and some of what have survived are of poor technical quality. Happily the two concerto recordings presented here were both of sufficient quality to make a full 32-bit XR remastering not only beneficial but highly worthwhile. Despite some surface noise at times on Dr. Duffy's Supraphon sides, much of which I've been able to alleviate, and some rather rough tone at times from the Moscow Youth Radio Symphony Orchestra, Sitkovetsky's playing shines throughout these recordings, and is a consistent joy to hear. **AR**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourq, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 553 821857
www.pristineclassical.com

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PASC 290



PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

JULIAN SITKOVETSKY

PLAYS

SIBELIUS
VIOLIN CONCERTO

PAGANINI
VIOLIN CONCERTO
No. 2 'LA CAMPANELLA'

CZECH PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA
NICOLAI ANOSSOV

MOSCOW YOUTH RADIO
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MARK PAVELMANN

STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1953 & 1955

