

COMPACT
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PASC 339

Mischa Elman

Vivaldi Mendelssohn Beethoven Paganini

Elman was born at Tahnol, Russia, January 21, 1891. He studied at the Royal Music School in Odessa under Fiedman, first appearing in public in 1899. Professor Leopold Auer was a member of the audience, and at his suggestion Elman went eventually to St. Petersburg in 1901. He came under the personal supervision of Auer and made immediate progress. Elman's debut was made in Berlin, 1904, and his success was immediate, bringing many engagements all over Germany. The following year he appeared in London, and the success he had already achieved in Germany was repeated in England. His first tour of America took place in 1908, and American audiences at once endorsed the opinions of Europe. Few musicians have achieved so fine a reputation at such an early age, and there appears to be little doubt that Elman's future career will be as successful as that of his prodigy days. At first his style of playing naturally showed the influence of his brilliant teacher, but later he has developed a style of his own which marks him out as an artist of great individual attainments. His repertory includes all the great violin concertos and solos. The violin which Mischa Elman used as a boy was a small Nicolas Amati; later, however, he has used a Stradivarius, dated 1727. This instrument is in a fine state of preservation.

The Etude June 1912

Mischa Elman (1891-1967) studied with Leopold Auer as a young child and made his debut at the age of 13. He recorded a prodigious number of acoustic Victor records, some with his own string quartet, and some with such artists as Caruso and Frances Alda. He was in the same celebrity class as Kreisler, and second only to him as a gramophone bestseller. Then his career perhaps started to shine a little less in comparison with some superlative contemporary violinists, and it was only partly due to the depression that he made fewer records in the late 1920s and 1930s. After the war he made a handful of mono LPs for Decca, and then one or two stereo recordings for Vanguard and Philips.

A.S. The Gramophone December 1989

Producer's Note

The sources for the present transfers were American Victor "Z" pressings for the Vivaldi; British HMV shellacs for the Beethoven Romances; a Japanese LP transferred from the original wide-range lacquer masters for the Mendelssohn; and 45 rpm vinyls for the Paganini. The original recording of this last item, an elaborate arrangement by Elman, is rare and has never previously appeared on CD, as have neither the Vivaldi nor the Beethoven Romance in F. Some swish is inherent in the master of the second side of the Vivaldi, and there are occasional gritty patches on the lacquers that were used for the Mendelssohn concerto's LP transfer.

Mark Ober-Tliorn

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Mischa Elman

Vivaldi

Violin Concerto in G minor

Beethoven

Two Romances

Mendelssohn

Violin Concerto

Paganini

Caprice No. 24

Mark Ober-Tliorn

Studio recordings, 1931-1951

Producer & Audio Restoration Engineer
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a
1915 photograph of **Mischa Elman**

Vivaldi Concerto

Recorded 29 September 1931, Kingsway Hall, London
Matrix nos.: 2B 1490-2, 1491-1, 1492-1 and 1493-2
First issued on HMV DB 1895 and 1896

Beethoven Romances

Recorded 30 November 1932, EMI Abbey Road Studio
No. 1, London
Matrix nos.: 2B 4341-3, 4342-2, 4343-1 and 4344-2
First issued on HMV DB 1846 and 1847

Mendelssohn Concerto

Recorded 8 March 1947, Orchestra Hall, Chicago
Matrix nos.: D6-RC-6739 through 6745
First issued on RCA Victor 12-0128 through 12-0131 in
album M-1196

Paganini Caprice

Recorded 3 April 1951, RCA Studio No. 2, New York
Matrix nos.: E1-RW-3186 through 3188
First issued on RCA Victor LM-1208

Total duration: **75:31**

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VIVALDI (arr. Nachez) **Violin Concerto in G minor, Op. 12 No. 1, RV317**

- 1 1st mvt. - Allegro (6:05)
- 2 2nd mvt. - Adagio (6:34)
- 3 3rd mvt. - Allegro (4:13)

New Symphony Orchestra Lawrance Collingwood

BEETHOVEN Two Romances

- 4 Romance No. 1 in G major, Op. 40 (7:36)
- 5 Romance No. 2 in F major, Op. 50 (9:21)

Orchestra Lawrance Collingwood

MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

- 6 1st mvt. - Allegro appassionato (13:09)
- 7 2nd mvt. - Andante (8:17)
- 8 3rd mvt. - Allegretto non troppo – Allegro molto vivace (6:51)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Desiré Defauw

- 9 **PAGANINI** (arr. Elman) Caprice in A minor, Op. 1, No. 24 (13:25)

Wolfgang Rosé piano

Mischa Elman violin