

CLASSICAL

On record: Classical

The week's essential new releases

PAGANINI, WOLF-FERRARI

Violin Concertos

Francesca Dego, City of Birmingham SO, cond Daniele Rustioni

DG4816381

Paganini's First — in D major — is the better known of these two concertos, but still a relative rarity. Dego and her maestro husband, Rustioni, are highly idiomatic interpreters; she is alert to the Paganini's bel canto lyricism and wittily demonic in its devilish pyrotechnics. Rustioni encourages a lush, rhapsodic account of the Wolf-Ferrari, a late Romantic "afterthought" that pays homage to verismo composers he mostly ignored and the neoclassicism of his Goldoni-esque comedies. *HC*

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