

Erica Morini



Erica Morini plays Tchaikovsky, Tartini, Vivaldi, Kreisler, Brahms and Wieniawski

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky | Giuseppe Tartini | Antonio Vivaldi | Fritz Kreisler | Johannes Brahms | Henryk Wieniawski

CD aud 95.606

Bayern 4 Klassik - CD-Tipp Dienstag, 30. November 2010 (Fridemann Leipold - 2010.11.30)



Erica Morini Violinvirtuosin alter Schule

Diese hervorragend restaurierten Tondokumente rufen die Erinnerung an eine Violinvirtuosin alter Schule wach, deren Nachruhm bedauerlicherweise hinter der früh verstorbenen Ginette Neveu und der lebenden Legende Ida Haendel verblasste: Erica Morini, geboren 1905 im kunstsinnigen Wien, gestorben 1995 im New Yorker Exil.

Allenfalls die Tatsache, dass der hochbetagten Morini während des letzten Krankenhausaufenthalts ihre kostbare Stradivari aus ihrem New Yorker Appartement gestohlen wurde, mit der sie nach ihrem Tod eigentlich jüdische Wohltätigkeitsorganisationen hatte unterstützen wollen, überlebte als tragische Anekdote.

Vom Wunderkind zur ernsthaften Musikerin

Erica Morini, die aus einer jüdischen Wiener Musikerfamilie stammte, schaffte den Sprung vom Wunderkind-Status zur ernsthaften Musiker-Karriere - dank ihrer soliden Ausbildung unter anderem bei dem berühmten böhmischen Pädagogen Otakar Ševčík (dessen Violinschule heute noch in Gebrauch ist). Nach dem nationalsozialistischen "Anschluss" Österreichs verließ Erica Morini ihre Heimat, emigrierte in die USA und wurde amerikanische Staatsbürgerin. Bis ins hohe Alter konzertierte sie weltweit mit Dirigenten wie Arthur Nikisch, Serge Koussewitzky, Wilhelm Furtwängler oder Bruno Walter. Dennoch schätzte sie ihre Position im damaligen Musikbetrieb ganz realistisch ein: "Ein Geiger ist ein Geiger, und als solcher bin ich zu beurteilen - nicht als weibliche Musikerin." Um am Ende ernüchert zu resümieren: "Niemand will Geigerinnen."

Phänomenales Geigenspiel

Von Erica Morinis phänomenalem Geigenspiel, zumal unter Live-Bedingungen, zeugt der hier erstmals veröffentlichte Konzertmitschnitt von 1952 aus dem Berliner Titania-Palast. Damals musizierte sie eines ihrer Paradestücke, das furiose Tschaikowsky-Konzert, mit eigenwilliger Phrasierung und wunderbar ausgeglichener Tongebung, mit feinen Lyrismen und völlig unsentimentaler Attacke. Die zeittypischen Portamenti bewegen sich hier sehr im Rahmen, allenfalls manche Rubati wirken heute etwas antiquiert. Morinis Tschaikowsky-Interpretation ist jederzeit klar gefasst, ufert nie exzentrisch aus, hat Zug und Charme. Das RIAS-Symphonie-Orchester unter seinem damaligen Chefdirigenten Ferenc Fricsay steuert markante Kontur und schöne Holzbläser-Soli bei.

Niemand spielt Kreisler wie Morini

Wie anrührend Barockmusik (meist in romantisierenden Bearbeitungen) seinerzeit klingen konnte, belegen

die beigegebenen Studio-Produktionen, ebenfalls von 1952, aus den Archiven des RIAS Berlin. Tartini oder Vivaldi changieren bei Erica Morini und ihrem bewährten Klavierpartner Michael Raucheisen zwischen innig ausgesungenem und hymnisch grandiosem Tonfall. Ihre stupende Bogentechnik kann man vor allem in den Gustostücken von Fritz Kreisler bewundern - schließlich lobte der Meister selbst: "Niemand spielt Kreisler wie Morini."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Nr. 12 (15. Januar 2011) (Jan Brachmann - 2011.01.15)



Gedenkblatt für Erica Morini

Verwischte Existenz

Gedenkblatt für Erica Morini

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Fono Forum Februar 2011 (Michael Kube - 2011.02.01)



Überragend frisch

Noch immer gilt selbst unter Kennern die in Wien geborene Geigerin Erica Morini (1905-1955) als Geheimtipp. Dass sie es trotz eines glänzenden künstlerischen Durchbruchs, einer großartigen Karriere und einiger Einspielungen nicht in das landläufige Gedächtnis bedeutender Interpreten geschafft hat, ist verschiedenen Ursachen geschuldet. Da wären zunächst die Zeitumstände, die sie zwangen, Europa zu verlassen. Dann aber war sie auch eine begnadete Musikerin in einem damals nahezu ausschließlich von Männern dominierten Management und Musikbetrieb – "Niemand will Geigerinnen" soll die Morini in tiefer Verbitterung geäußert haben. In der Tat: Was ist denn auch schon von einem so fragwürdigen Urteil wie "die wahrscheinlich größte Geigerin, die je gelebt hat" (Harold C. Schonberg) zu halten?

Dabei hätte die einstige Schülerin von Sevcik, Grün, Rosa Hochmann-Rosenfeld, Alma Rosé und Adolf Busch einen weit prominenteren Platz verdient. Die alte Einschränkung von Carl Flesch, die urmusikalische Künstlerin würde bei aller technischen Souveränität eben doch ein wenig "antiquiert" geigen, geht heute allerdings ins Leere: Denn gerade ihr geschmeidiger Bogenstrich, die Vertiefung in die Musik selbst und der hörbare Verzicht auf rein äußerliche Brillanz lassen aufhorchen – zu gerne würde man ein Spohr-Konzert von ihr hören, die sie angeblich noch alle im Repertoire hatte! Und so klingt denn auch Tschairowskys Violinkonzert im Live-Mitschnitt aus dem Berliner Titania-Palast vom 13. Oktober 1952 ungemein frisch und luftig, ohne aufgesetzte Bedeutungsschwere. Das liegt auch an Erica Morinis unmittelbarer Risikobereitschaft, selbst vor dem Mikrofon. Zudem präsentiert sich das RIAS-Orchester unter Ferenc Fricsay in Höchstform. Die nur zwei Tage später im Studio aufgenommenen Sonaten, Walzer und Capricen sind eine schöne Zugabe, auch wenn Michael Raucheisen das forsche Tempo nicht immer mitgehen mag. Die Aufnahme klingt in der perfekten Restaurierung angenehm direkt, trocken und erstaunlich präzise.

La Musica 2011 January (- 2011.01.01)**Erica Morini**

Erica Morini

*Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.***andante 2011 January (- 2011.01.01)****Erica Morini**

koreanische Rezension siehe PDF

auditorium January 2011 (- 2011.01.01)**Erica Morini**

Erica Morini

*Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.***theartsdesk.com Saturday, 26 February 2011 (Graham Rickson - 2011.02.26)****Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto (plus works by Tartini, Kreisler, Brahms, Vivaldi and Wieniawski)**

*Erica Morini (violin), RIAS-Symphonie-Orchester, Ferenc Fricsay (recorded 1952)
(Audite)*

Described by one commentator as “probably the greatest woman violinist who ever lived”, Erica Morini (1905-1995) responded curtly by saying, “A violinist is a violinist and I am to be judged as one – not as a female musician.” From an Austrian Jewish family, she emigrated in 1938 and eventually became a US citizen. She was close to Bruno Walter, Pablo Casals and George Szell but made few recordings, and this marvellously restored CD gives us performances taken from German radio archives. The main draw is a slightly cut version of the Tchaikovsky concerto, accompanied by the brilliant Hungarian conductor Ferenc Fricsay. It’s a thrilling account, and in remarkably clear, well-balanced mono sound.

The violin and piano couplings are fun; Respighi’s anachronistic arrangement of a Vivaldi sonata swoons and smoulders inauthentically, and miniatures by Brahms, Kreisler and Wieniawski sparkle. As mentioned, the excellent recorded sound needs no apologies and the notes are fascinating.

Gramophone April 2011 (Rob Cowan - 2011.04.01)

GRAMOPHONE
THE WORLD'S BEST CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEWS

Rob Cowan's monthly survey of reissues and archive recordings

Brilliant recollections - Bumper box sets at super-budget price

Brilliant Classics might not provide the ultimate in useful documentation – most of their boxed reissues don't carry any at all – but for genuine quality packed at budget price, you could hardly do better. A personal favourite among recent releases is a 20-disc collection titled *Espana* which includes Alfonso Moreno playing Rodrigo guitar concertos, Rodrigo piano music played in 2002 by Albert Guinovart, guitar works recorded in the same year by Ignacio Rodes and Carles Trepat, and three discs' worth of Falla orchestral works played with a combination of fire and tonal refinement by the *Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra* of Venezuela and the *Solistas de Mexico* under Eduardo Mata. A personal highlight within this particular selection is a three-disc selection of Albéniz piano music recorded between 1968 and 1974 by Esteban Sánchez, a name previously unknown to me but an extremely sensitive player, especially of the rarely heard *Fifth Piano Sonata*, the third movement of which moved me so much I listened to it three times in succession. Thomas Rajna's memorable 1976 set of Granados piano works is better known and so are the three discs of music by Federico Mompou recorded by the composer in 1974, a must-have for anyone interested in 20th-century piano music, especially if it needs to be serenely beautiful, which Mompou's often is. The set is rounded off with three much-praised CDs of zarzuela arias, all recorded 1975-77, one featuring José Carreras, two Teresa Berganza. What a feast!

Other Brilliant boxes are hardly less enticing, even though much of the material has been out before in one form or another. A 10-disc set of *Pianists* opens daringly with a June 1978 Schubert concert by Sviatoslav Richter where the first movement of the *G major Sonata, D894*, stretches to an epic 26'18". Also included are the *Sonata in E minor, D566*, and the *Allegretto in C minor, D915*. I loved Nelson Freire's Liszt CD (the *First and Second Concertos*) with the *Dresden Philharmonic* under Michel Plasson, playing that is both flexibly phrased and technically brilliant. Emil Gilels is placed mercilessly close to the microphones for a coupling of Beethoven's *Fourth and Fifth concertos* with the *USSR State SO* under Kurt Masur (1976) but the performances are hugely authoritative. Géza Anda's 1966 DG recordings of Schumann's *Kreisleriana* and *Dauidsbündlertänze* capture playing that is both deft and fanciful, and I'm always ready to enjoy Jean-Philippe Collard in *Fauré*. The rest, although well worth having, has graced the store shelves rather more often – early Brendel recordings of Mozart, Rachmaninov with Lugansky and Grimaud, Liszt *Rhapsodies* with Pizzaro and Kissin's *feted boyhood disc* of Chopin concertos. Brilliant's collection of "The *Early Recordings*" of pianist Christoph Eschenbach (this time including a modest booklet) affords us a useful opportunity to revisit the playing of a major musician whose ear for nuance and ability to sustain even the slowest tempi convincingly (a *Hammerklavier Sonata Adagio* that runs to 24'16") are at the very least remarkable. These are highly individual readings, but it's a soft-spoken individuality, always at the service of the music. The repertoire covered includes Beethoven's *Concertos Nos 5* (under Ozawa) and *3* (under Hans Werner Henze), Henze's own *Second Concerto*, Schubert's last two sonatas, Schumann's *Kinderszenen* and Chopin's *Preludes Op 28 and 45* and "No 26".

Another mixed collection, this time of *Violinists*, includes such desirable couplings as David Oistrakh in the two *Shostakovich concertos* (under Mravinsky and Rozhdestvensky), Ivry Gitlis's *Vox-originated disc* of Berg, Hindemith and Stravinsky concertos, Beethoven sonatas *Op 24* and *Op 30 Nos 1 and 2* with Arthur Grumiaux and Clara Haskil, and a potpourri of pieces played by Gidon Kremer, bizarrely some of it recorded (or transferred) in mono. Other violinists represented include Christian Ferras (*Franck and Lekeu sonatas*), Viktor Tretyakov (*Paganini and Khachaturian concertos*), Ulf Hoelscher (*Saint-Saëns*), Salvatore Accardo (*Elgar and Walton concertos* under Richard Hickox) and Shlomo Mintz (*Lalo, Vieuxtemps and Saint-Saëns*).

However, my prize violin issue for the month is without question Audite's single CD of 1952 "live" Berlin recordings by the Sevcik-pupil Erica Morini who, when she made her debut under Nikisch in Berlin in 1917 (she was just 13), was immediately hailed among the best violinists of her generation. Morini's Westminster recording of the *Tchaikovsky Concerto* under Rodzinski (RPO) is pretty impressive but this 1951 version

with the RIAS Symphony Orchestra under a highly volatile Ferenc Fricsay is even better, Morini's swagger, dashing spiccato and sensitive quiet playing reminding me at times of the great Bronisław Huberman, especially in the (truncated) finale. Occasionally one senses that Fricsay wants to push the tempo even harder but the effect is never uncomfortable. If Morini's Tchaikovsky reflects the influence of Huberman, her Vivaldi (Sonata Op 2 No 11) and Tartini (Corelli Variations) often recall the playing of Adolf Busch, especially in the way she draws out and colours the musical line. A characterful quartet of encores (all the duet pieces are with pianist Michael Raucheisen) includes a wonderful performance of Wieniawski's delightful Capriccio-Waltz, much beloved of Huberman and Heifetz, and where Morini displays some impressive staccato bowing. This is an altogether exceptional CD and the mono sound quality throughout is more than acceptable.

Diverdi Magazin marzo 2011 (Roberto Andrade - 2011.03.01)

DIVERDI.COM

Nacida en la Viena imperial

Audite dedica un CD monográfico a la gran violinista Erica Morini

En la actualidad, el panorama del violín registra una abundancia de nombres femeninos: Mullova, Mutter, Julia Fischer, Arabella Steinbacher, Lisa Batiashvilli, Isabelle Faust, todas situadas en el mismo nivel que sus colegas masculinos más destacados. Pero durante la primera mitad del siglo XX la situación era muy distinta, y en el olimpo violinístico figuraban casi solamente los varones. La excepción más notable al dominio de estos era, junto a Ginette Neveu, Ida Haendel y Gioconda de Vito, Erica Morini. Nacida en Viena en 1904 ó 1905 (las fuentes de información no son unánimes), recibió sus primeras lecciones de su padre Oskar, discípulo de Joachim. Niña prodigio, ingresó con 8 años en el Conservatorio de Viena, donde estudió con Otakar Sevcik, ilustre maestro de Jan Kubelik, Schneiderhahn y Szymon Goldberg. En 1916, Morini debutó en Viena y en 1921 en Nueva York. Obligada a abandonar su país, tras ser anexionado por la Alemania nazi, los EE UU serían su segunda patria desde 1938 y en 1943 adquirió la ciudadanía americana. Su carrera continuó hasta 1976 y falleció en 1995.

Morini grabó música de cámara con los pianistas Firkusny y Raucheisen, y varios de los grandes conciertos del repertorio con Rodzinski para Westminster y para DG con Fricsay. Este mismo maestro es quien colabora con ella en el de Tchaikovsky, que Morini aborda con seguridad y solvencia y en el que luce su musicalidad y su bello sonido, especialmente durante la Canzonetta, una vez pasadas las tremendas dificultades del allegro inicial – que parece patrimonio de los rusos más grandes, como Oistray y Kogan joven – que someten a palpable tensión a Morini. El final, en el que Fricsay practica un breve corte sin gran importancia, tiene también alto nivel musical, no en vano la colaboración del maestro húngaro al frente de la orquesta RIAS es de primer orden. El célebre Michael Raucheisen acompaña al piano el resto del programa que incluye una sonata de Tartini (Didone abbandonata) y la RV 10 de Vivaldi que, cuestiones historicistas aparte, se escuchan con agrado, porque Morini las toca con perfecta afinación, excelente línea musical y buen gusto. Siguen las Variaciones de Tartini sobre un tema de Corelli en el arreglo de Fritz Kreisler, y dos piezas originales de éste, Schön Rosmarin y el Capricho Vienés, en las que la artista muestra total familiaridad con el estilo de una música que escuchó desde niña y de las que brinda unas versiones deliciosas, de fraseo flexible y elegante y luminosa sonoridad. Otras dos miniaturas, el conocido Vals de Brahms, opus 39 número 15 y el virtuosista Capricho-Vals de Wieniawsky opus 7 ratifican el dominio de Morini en la pequeña forma, especialidad no fácilmente accesible a todos los violinistas y que ella pudo aprender de sus maestros, Kreisler incluido, cuyos maravillosos conciertos debió de disfrutar en más de una ocasión. Un merecido homenaje a una destacada artista. Buen sonido y excelentes comentarios de carpeta a cargo de Norbert Hornig.

Pizzicato N° 212 - 4/2011 (Alain Steffen - 2011.04.01)

pizzicato
Henry Frick's Journal about Classical Music

Erica Morini, die Vergessene

Kaum einer kennt heute noch die Violinistin Erica Morini, die sicherlich eine der ersten Sologeigerinnen der Geschichte war. Sie debütierte 1917 im Alter von nur 12 Jahren in Berlin unter Arthur Nikisch, wurde in den Zwanzigerjahren in Amerika regelrecht gefeiert und spielte eigentlich mit allen großen Orchestern und Dirigenten der damaligen Zeit. 1976 zog sie sich von der Bühne zurück und starb 1995 im Alter von 90 Jahren. Morini war berühmt für ihre Virtuosität und ihre eigenwilligen, unpräzisen und unpathetischen Interpretationen, in denen sie auch gerne Risiken einging.

Atemberaubend ist das hier vorliegende, live aufgenommene Violinkonzert von Piotr Tchaikovsky, durch das sie wie eine Furie hindurch fegt und den romantischen Staub kräftig aufwirbelt. Morinis Interpretation ist dabei so gewagt und neu wie vor dreißig Jahren die revolutionären Konzerte und Aufnahmen eines Harnoncourt. Dass bei dem flotten Tempo – Morini braucht gerade einmal 31 Minuten für dieses Konzert – auch mal was danebengeht, ist nicht schlimm, denn die Spontaneität, die atemberaubende Schnelligkeit und die Flexibilität sind mehr als beeindruckend. Ferenc Fricsay ist ebenfalls in seinem Element und fordert von seinem Orchester eine enorme Reaktionsgeschwindigkeit, die, wie das Spiel der Solistin, manchmal gefährliche Klippen streift. Aber egal, welch ein musikalisches Erlebnis! Zusammen mit Michael Raucheisen hat Erica Morini ebenfalls Werke von Tartini (Violinsonate RV 10), Kreisler, Brahms (Walzer op. 39/15) und Wieniawski (Capriccio-Walzer op. 7) eingespielt, die interpretatorisch ebenfalls sehr interessant sind, zeigen sie doch eine Violinistin, die ihrer Zeit weit voraus war und die Musik als etwas Lebendiges betrachtete, für das man auch einmal spieltechnische Risiken auf sich nehmen konnte.

Diapason N° 591 Mai 2011 (Jean-Michel Molkhou - 2011.05.01)

Erica Morini

Adulée jusqu' à sa retraite en 1976 puis injustement oubliée, Erica Morini reprend peu à peu sa place au panthéon des violonistes grâce à plusieurs rééditions (cf. nos 392, 455, 502, 534, 552). Considérée comme l'une des princesses de l'archet du xxe siècle, celle qui batailla pour que les femmes violonistes soient reconnues au même titre que les hommes fut l'une des dernières survivantes d'un petit noyau de musiciens prodiges (au rang desquels George Szell et Rudolf Serkin) à avoir connu les lustres ultimes de l'empire austro-hongrois. Sa discographie s'enrichit d'inédits, dont un bouillonnant concerto de Tchaïkovski capté sur le vif en 1952 à Berlin, sous l'énergique baguette de Ferenc Fricsay.

On lui connaissait déjà quatre témoignages de l'oeuvre, en studio avec Defauw (1945) puis Rodzinski (1956), en concert avec Stravinsky (1940) et Horenstein (1957). Fricsay lui apporte un élan particulièrement intrépide dans l'Allegro initial, dose tendresse et pathos dans la Canzonetta. Sur son magnifique Stradivarius de 1727 «Le Davidoff», Morini offre une luminosité de timbres et une ampleur dynamique dignes de rivaliser avec les plus prestigieuses versions de l'époque.

Son jeu, formé à l'école de Sevcik (mais également passé par l'enseignement d'Adolf Busch) dégage un parfum «vieux Europe», plein de liberté et de panache, appréciable dans les compléments. Dans deux sonates italiennes, son style rappelle Milstein par la fraîcheur comme par l'élégance; on comprend vite pourquoi le grand violoniste russe l'avait choisie pour enregistrer à ses côtés deux doubles concertos de Bach et de Vivaldi (Emi, 1964). Soutenus par l'excellent Michael Raucheisen, son allégresse et son charme font encore merveille dans trois pièces de Kreisler, tandis que son goût exquis de la fantaisie est un modèle dans le pétillant Capriccio-Valse de Wieniawski. Des trésors d'une excellente qualité sonore à ne manquer sous aucun prétexte.

Audite's release devoted to violinist Erica Morini falls into two parts: a live performance of Tchaikovsky's concerto from October 13, 1952, and studio recordings she made two days later in Berlin's RIAS Studio 7. Morini recorded the concerto with Désiré Defauw and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on 78s and with Artur Rodzinski and the Royal Philharmonic for Westminster in 1958 (289 471 200-2). DOREMI has released another live performance of the concerto, in which Igor Stravinsky conducted the New York Philharmonic in 1940, Doremi 7772 (Fanfare 24:6). Audite's release of the live version, with Ferenc Fricsay conducting the RIAS Symphony Orchestra, enjoys a transfer that allows Morini's rich tone to emerge naturally, vibrantly, and authoritatively (and transmits a vividly detailed impression of Fricsay's and the orchestra's vigorous accompaniment). Morini shifts back and forth in the first movement between poetic sensitivity and technical passagework that digs deeply into the strings, especially in double-stops. This contrast appears in microcosm in the cadenza, to which she introduces unexampled sensibility into phrases that often serve only as transitions between technical coups. Throughout the movement, her 1727 Davidoff Stradivari (sadly, stolen from her as she lay dying) sounds as throaty as a Guarneri on the G string but brilliantly reedy in the upper registers (listen to the introductory measures of the finale to get an idea of her slashing rhetoric as enhanced by her instrument). Carl Flesch thought that her technical manner sounded dated, but it suits the episodes in the finale, for example; in any case, she never employs devices, such as swooping portamentos, that would mark her playing as anything but individual. Just as in the cases of Nathan Milstein, Jascha Heifetz, Zino Francescatti, and David Oistrakh, not to mention Fritz Kreisler, those mannerisms impress the violinist's playing with a personal stamp, and so they do as well in Morini's case. Listeners should beware, however: Although the booklet clearly indicates that the finale appears in a truncated version, the timings of the finale (8:10 with Stravinsky, 8:29 with Horenstein, 8:00 with Rodzinski, and 8:10 with Fricsay) reveal that the performance, however surprising the cuts when they occur, fits well into her usual way of playing the movement.

Morini recorded Giuseppe Tartini's "other" G-Minor Sonata, "Didone abbandonata," in a collection that included works by Vivaldi, Pergolesi, and Nardini, with Leon Pommers, and I remember acquiring that LP (Decca DL 10102) now almost two generations ago and finding the performance somewhat chunky and stolid. This one seems more gracious and suave. Those familiar with Isaac Stern's master class in China in his award-winning documentary should remember his insistence that the young student sing the first movement (literally). Morini doesn't sing it with the kind of expressivity that Stern suggested, but as in the third movement, not always interpolated nowadays, her reading is expressive in its own way—and at a tempo that seems slow but not quite languishing. The second movement's technical passages sparkle as brightly as so many diamonds; still, the recorded sound in these studio recordings seems a bit tubby. She makes the finale sound as cheerful despite its minor key as do any of the sunny minor-key movements in violin concertos by Giovanni Battista Viotti. For some, her combination of wistfulness and brilliance in Tartini will sound altogether too romantic; for those who don't adhere rigidly to any performance-practice dogmas, it will seem a sensitive updating, effectively translating many of Tartini's idiosyncratic expressions into modern dialects.

Ottorino Respighi's popular reworking of Antonio Vivaldi's sonata already contains within it the seeds of tension between the Baroque and the era in which Respighi transcribed it, so it should be no surprise if Morini's performance sounds somewhat ambivalent as well. But the same characteristics nevertheless prevail—an incisive technical approach married to a bold yet lyrical expressivity. Morini also recorded this sonata later, included in Decca's collection with Leon Pommers.

The end of the program consists of what might nowadays be considered "mere" encore pieces. Kreisler's celebrated pastiche of Tartini's celebrated variations on Corelli's celebrated gavotte from his *L'arte del arco*, a favorite with almost every eminent violinist since Kreisler's time, makes a strong appeal in this elegant performance (an early video of David Oistrakh playing it doesn't suggest either such effortlessness or such sparkle). DOREMI also reissued this performance, along with the Tchaikovsky concerto conducted by Stravinsky, in its second Morini volume. In Kreisler's own *Schön Rosmarin*, Morini turns in an even more

elegant, more sparkling performance that catapults her to a place among the very most convincing exponents of that violinist's composition, while her by turns sultry and skittish reading of the famous Caprice viennois cements her in that place. (Her capriciousness in the middle section recalls Kreisler's own; not every successful Kreisler re-creator resembles him so much here.) Her reading of Brahms's waltz may provide one of the most pleasant surprises of the collection for listeners largely unfamiliar with the panache with which violinists of her generation could dispatch such simple items. Wieniawski's Capriccio-Valse isn't so simple, though it may be simply a barn burner. Many violinists could play it with equal technical command, but how can you compare her silken sound and the subtly nuanced coddling of phrases tailor-made for such an approach to theirs?

Because of the slenderness of Morini's output, these recordings should appeal to every collector of violin music and to every admirer of the best violinists of the 20th century, now sadly receding into the past. Nathan Milstein supposedly would play only with Morini in his later years. It's easy to see why. Inspiring, and urgently recommended.

The Strad January 2011 (Tully Potter - 2011.01.01)



Here is a portrait of the marvellous Erica Morini (1904-95) as she was in Berlin...

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thewholenote.com February 2011 (Bruce Surtees - 2011.02.01)



Old wine in new bottles – Fine old recordings

Old wine in new bottles – Fine old recordings

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.

Strings Magazine September 2011 (Edith Eisler - 2011.09.01)



Erica Morini plays Tchaikovsky, Tartini, Vivaldi, Kreisler, Brahms, and Wieniawski

Born in Vienna in 1904, Erica Morini started her career as a spectacular child violin prodigy. At the age of eight, she became the Vienna Music Academy's youngest and first female student. Her 1916 Vienna debut in the Paganini Concerto was a sensation; her first American tour in 1920 included an appearance with the New York Philharmonic. Yet, though regarded as one of the finest violinists of her day, she became famous less as an artist than as the first woman violinist with a successful international career, an injustice she deplored and resented. She died in New York in 1995.

As her playing on this live 1952 recording shows, Morini's tone was singularly beautiful: pure and silken, with a focused vibrato, variable in color and intensity, and unflinchingly expressive. Her technique was effortless and brilliant, her intonation impeccable—she never let her facility run away with her. An eloquent musician and distinctive personality, she combined a fiery temperament with sophistication, earthy robustness with tenderness and delicacy. The Tchaikovsky is lush, with many juicy slides, and very free: big tempo changes underline shifts of mood and character. Here, the orchestral sound is raucous and loud,

and even Morini's own is scratchy sometimes. Stylistically a child of her time, she makes the Baroque works equally romantic, but gives the virtuoso pieces irresistible charm.

Unfortunately, she made few records, which may explain why she is not as well known as she deserves. But these recordings showcase her many gifts.

[Musica](#) dicembre 2011 - gennaio 2012 (Stefano Pagliantini - 2011.12.01)



Considerata una delle maggiori violiniste del ventesimo secolo, al pari delle...

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Gramophone March 2012 (- 2012.03.01)



Erica Morini

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

Morini, Austrian-born but naturalised American, played under Nikisch at the age of 14. Her view of the Tchaikovsky Concerto combines brilliance with the most exquisite brand of poetry, her tone and phrasing not unlike the great Adolf Busch (who, incidentally never recorded the work). There are various recordings of the Concerto with her but this has to be the finest, especially as Ferenc Fricsay is alert to her every inflection and gesture.

[American Record Guide](#) 01.03.2011 (Joseph Magil - 2011.03.01)



...These recordings were remastered from the original master tapes, so the sound is good for its time...

To read the complete review, please visit American Record Guide online.

[ensuite Kulturmagazin](#) Nr. 137 Mai 2014 (François Lilienfeld - 2014.05.01)



Endlich wieder zu hören: Erica Morini und Bronislaw Gimpel

Ihr Ton ist unglaublich expressiv, die Bogenführung ermöglicht unzählige Varianten in der Klangfarbe, aber auch in der Phrasierung: Sie beherrscht schier endlose Legatobögen, spielt andererseits Staccati und Spiccato gestochen scharf. Sie scheut sich nicht, in ihrer Suche nach intensivem Ausdruck manchmal auf dem «hohen Seil» zu spielen.

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.

www.ClassicsToday.com 04.02.2014 (David Hurwitz - 2014.02.04)



Historical Gems: Morini's Tchaikovsky, Really, Really Live

It's an incredibly exciting performance, very well recorded [and] excellently remastered by Audite.

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.

[France Musique](#) jeudi 9 juin 2011 (Marc Dumont - 2011.06.09)



BROADCAST Grands compositeurs

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[Fidelity](#) 18. Februar 2016 (Michael Vrzal - 2016.02.18)

source: <https://www.fidelity-magazin.de/2016/02/...>



[...] ein besseres Gefühl für die physische und musikalische Auseinandersetzung einer Interpretin mit einem fordernden Werk dürfte kaum zu finden sein.

Full review text restrained for copyright reasons.