



Antonio Janigro & The Zagreb Soloists

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[Fanfare](#) (James A. Altena - 2016.06.01)

The names of The Zagreb Soloists (or I Solisti Zagreb, as it often appeared instead) and its director, cellist Antonio Janigro, will doubtless be thrice familiar to many longtime collectors of classical music, particularly for its numerous recordings that appeared on the Vanguard label. (I have a personal soft spot for the renditions of the Bach concertos for multiple harpsichords with Anton Heiller and assisting soloists.) This disc offers as a tribute to the ensemble a collection of broadcast performances, dating from between 1957 and 1966. Alas, it does the ensemble no favors, and one wonders why it even was issued. The playing is often scrappy and provincial, the monaural recorded sound is thin and harsh, and the interpretations are undistinguished or worse. (The Barber Adagio, a piece that normally requires eight to nine minutes to traverse, is here garroted in a mercilessly unfeeling 5:50!) As a soloist in the Vivaldi Cello Concerto, the normally estimable Janigro is unstylish and seems to be simply going through the motions. Absolutely, take a pass on this.