

THE RECORDING

Wandy Tworek

'The Danish Violin Wizard'

Wieniawski, Bartók, Tartini et al

Tworek *vn* Danish Broadcasting
Orchestra / Tuxen et al

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Great violinists on show

VAI's two DVDs make for pleasurable viewing, with some players appearing on both and generally acceptable picture and sound quality. The 'old world' is vividly represented by Mischa Elman playing *Schön Rosmarin* with an implied chuckle and Michael Rabin looking rather pleased with himself having dispatched a brilliant *Tambourin chinois* (both Vol 1). What a joy to see Joseph Szigeti in 1954 playing Hubay's *Csárdás No 3* with a telling combination of panache and gypsy-style ardour (Vol 2). It's a pity that Ida Haendel's lusty account of the finale from Brahms's Concerto is so rigidly accompanied under Franz-Paul Decker (Vol 1), also that on Vol 2 all we have from her of Sarasate's *Carmen Fantasy* is the introduction. David Oistrakh plays the first movement of Brahms's D minor Sonata with Sviatoslav Richter (Vol 1), our eyes and ears inevitably drawn to Richter's powerfully focused piano playing; Oistrakh is marginally warmer (and younger) in the first movement of Beethoven's C minor Sonata (Vol 2). Two virtuosic highlights are on Vol 2: Ruggiero Ricci (1964) in the finale of Tchaikovsky's Concerto; and Zino Francescatti (1959) with great warmth and lightning inflections in *Zigeunerweisen*. Isaac Stern combines heart and hardiness in Brahms's *F-A-E* Scherzo (Vol 2) and with Leonard Rose and Eugene Istomin gives a thrilling account of the finale from Beethoven's Op 1 No 3 (Vol 1). Also represented are Henryk Szeryng, the Guarneri Quartet, Aaron Rosand, Josef Suk, Nathan Milstein, Yehudi Menuhin and Christian Ferras. Given the choice, I'd opt for the marginally more compelling Vol 2.