



CHANNEL CLASSICS

CCS 13898

# Paolo Giacometti

PIANO ERARD (1849)

ROSSINI

*'L'Album pour les enfants dégourdis'*  
complete works for piano vol. 2

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PIANO ERARD (1849)

*Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)*

*'L'Album pour les Enfants dégourdis'*  
complete works for piano vol. 2

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 01 | <i>Mon Prélude hygiénique du Matin</i> | 5.39 |
| 02 | <i>Une caresse à ma femme</i>          | 3.22 |
| 03 | <i>Chansonnette</i>                    | 4.11 |
| 04 | <i>Barcarole</i>                       | 4.45 |
| 05 | <i>La Savoie aimante</i>               | 6.10 |
| 06 | <i>Prélude baroque</i>                 | 7.07 |
| 07 | <i>La Pesarese</i>                     | 4.55 |
| 08 | <i>Fausse-Couche de Polka-Mazurka</i>  | 3.31 |
| 09 | <i>Un Enterrement en Carnaval</i>      | 9.04 |
| 10 | <i>Memento Homo</i>                    | 7.08 |
| 11 | <i>Assez de Memento, Dansons</i>       | 4.43 |
| 12 | <i>Étude asthmatique</i>               | 5.29 |

Total Time 66.52

Recording location Doopsgezinde Kerk, Deventer, The Netherlands

Recording date, March 1999



VAN DEN HERIK BROS.  
INVESTMENTS AMSTERDAM



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*'Giacometti, talent and musician!.....a name to remember'*



**Paolo Giacometti** was born in Milan in 1970 and came with his parents to the Netherlands the next year. When he was nine years old he started piano lessons at the Music School in Hilversum with Joke Dekker-Vroons. He continued his studies with Jan Wijn at the Amsterdam Sweelinck Conservatory, where he was admitted directly to the 'Performance Musician Program'. He graduated with honors in 1995.

Paolo Giacometti has followed a number of Masterclasses with such eminent pianists and teachers as György Sebök, Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Marie Françoise Bucquet, Lazar Berman, John Perry and Detlef Kraus.

He has successfully participated in various National and International Piano Competitions. In 1987 he was awarded First Prize at the Steinway Competition in The Netherlands qualifying thereby to take part in the International Steinway Festival the following year as the representative of the Netherlands. This in turn led to an invitation to participate in the German Parke-Davis Förderpreis in Germany in 1990, which he won. In 1992 he participated in the prestigious International Brahms Competition in Hamburg where he was awarded the Second Prize. In 1995 Paolo Giacometti was again awarded First Prize at the Postbank Sweelinck Competition and was invited to perform Brahms' 2nd piano concerto together with the Amsterdam Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Kenneth Montgomery at various famous Dutch concert halls, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

Apart from many concerts in The Netherlands, Paolo Giacometti has given recitals in Italy, Germany and France. The last years he has also performed abroad together with the Dutch cellist Pieter Wispelwey.

Like the collection from the preceding Rossini CD, **'L'ALBUM POUR LES ENFANTS DÉGOURDIS'**, or 'album for quick-witted children', is part of the 'Péchés de vieillesse' or 'sins of old age'. For the most part, these works are short character pieces composed by Rossini towards the end of his life, between his return to Paris in 1855 and his death in 1868. This was a happy time for the composer, and thus these pieces were often composed to enliven of many gastronomic and musical evenings which he organized for his friends. It is hardly surprising, in this context, that irony is the unifying characteristic for so many of these brief narratives.

Irony greets us immediately in the title of the collection, which suggests Rossini's intention to mislead both listener and performer: the link with 'quick-witted children' has far more to do with the exuberant character of the pieces than with their titles.

For example, the first piece, 'Mon Prélude hygiénique du Matin' is a cheerful little gem written for the pianist to start his day 'fresh and lively', and 'Une caresse à ma femme' is an ode to Rossini's dearly beloved wife.

The connection with his own youth can be found in 'Barcarole', 'Chansonette', and 'La Pesarese', which vividly recall Italian folk songs, and the last of which refers to Pesaro, the town of his birth.

His social-mindedness is most strongly expressed in 'La Savoie aimante'. Here a pastoral introduction is followed by the 'march of the Zouaves', who were a French mercenary regiment from northern Africa employed by Napoleon III to aid the King of Savoy, Victor Emanuel II in the unification of Italy. The march paints a lively picture of the soldiers as they approach and pass us, after which the pastorelle returns to express the delightful peace of the northern Italian landscape.

Rossini's darker side appears in 'Un Enterrement en Carnaval', a funeral during Carnival time. But Rossini would not be Rossini if he had given in to cheap sentiment, and so, in spite of the funeral, the Carnival gains the upper hand.

The same contrast between light and dark, so characteristic of his brand of humor, also appears in 'Memento Homo' (Remember o Thou Man) which is followed by 'Assez de Memento, Dansons'. The first is a reminder to humanity, a beautiful song of lamentation, but then comes 'that's enough remembering, let's dance' whose held-in joy has an almost surrealistic effect.

To conclude, there is a 'Prélude baroque', baroque in its wealth of ornaments and twiddles, a 'Fausse-couche de Polka-Mazurka' or miscarriage of a Polka-Mazurka which tries to be both and ultimately succeeds at neither, and the collection ends most suitably with the 'Étude asthmatique' which 'subtly' portrays shortness of breath.

And so continues my voyage of discovery through this abundant universe of the aging Rossini, a man who in his final happy years can look back on a life full of events and experiences, a man with a razor-sharp sense of humor, never pedantic and always ready with a wink.

*Translation: David Shapero*

**L'ALBUM POUR LES ENFANTS DÉGOURDIS'** oftewel het album voor bijdehante kinderen maakt evenals de collectie uit de hieraan voorafgaande Rossini-cd deel uit van de 'Péchés de vieillesse' oftewel 'de ouderdomszonden'. Dit zijn veelal korte karakterschetsen die hij schreef tegen het eind van zijn leven vanaf zijn terugkeer naar Parijs in 1855 tot aan zijn dood in 1868. Het was een gelukkige tijd voor hem en zo ontstonden deze werken dan ook vaak als opulstering voor de vele muzikaal en gastronomisch getinte avonden die hij organiseerde voor zijn vrienden. Het ligt dan ook voor de hand dat ironie de rode draad vormt door al deze verhalende stukken.

Het begint al met de titel waarbij Rossini zowel luisteraar als vertolker op het verkeerde been lijkt te willen zetten aangezien de link met levendige kinderen veel meer ligt in het flamboyante karakter van deze werken dan in de titels daarvan.

Zo is het eerste stuk 'Mon Prélude hygiénique du Matin' een vrolijk kleinnood waarmee de pianist gezond, fris en wel aan zijn dag kan beginnen en is 'Une caresse à ma femme' een ode aan zijn vrouw waar hij zoveel van hield.

De link met zijn eigen jeugd is wellicht terug te vinden in 'Barcarole', 'Chansonnette' en 'La Pesarese' die sterk doen denken aan Italiaanse volksliedjes waarbij met name de laatste verwijst naar zijn geboortestad Pesaro.

Zijn sociaal engagement komt het sterkst tot uiting in 'La Savoie aimante'. Hierin wordt de pastorale inleiding gevolgd door de 'mars van de Zouaven'. De Zouaven waren een Frans huurlingenleger uit Noord-Afrika waarmee Napoleon III de koning van Savoie,

# colophon

Production  
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Recording engineer, editing  
Cover design  
Cover photo  
Piano technician  
Liner notes  
Instrument

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Ine van de Broek  
Sjoerd Heijda  
Paolo Giacometti  
Erard 1849, collection Edwin Beunk

## Technical information

Microphones  
Digital converter  
Speakersystems  
Recording location  
Recording date

Bruel & Kjaer 4003  
24 Bit Prism / Genex Recorder  
Monitor Audio, Studio 6 & AKG K1000 Headphones  
Doopsgezinde Kerk, Deventer, The Netherlands  
March 1999

# discography

## *Paolo Giacometti solo*

CCS 10697 Franz Schubert, Sonata in a minor opus 42, 4 Impromptus opus 142  
CCS 12398 Rossini, L' Album pour les enfants adolescents, Complete works for piano vol.1

## *Paolo Giacometti & Pieter Wispelwey*

CCS 8695 Tchaikovsky, Dvorák, Arensky, Davíďov  
CCS 9596 Max Reger: Three suites for cello solo  
CCS 9696 Schubert: Arpeggione, Sonatinas  
CCS 10797 Chopin, Fauré, Poulenc