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P. ROVELLI

TWELVE CAPRICES

for

VIOLIN

Revised by Edmund Singer

BOSTON 252 Tremont Street Carl Fischer Inc. Cooper Square NEW YORK

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Descriptive Comments.

FIETRO ROVELLI was a native of Bergamo, Italy, where he was born February 6, 1793. He received his first musical instruction from his grandfather, who was maestro of the St. Maria Maggiore Church of that city. It is reported that he appeared in public when only thirteen years of age, and later on continued his studies under Rudolph Kreutzer's personal direction in Paris. During a concert tour through Germany as far



as Vienna in 1817, he met with such emphatic success in Munich, that he was appointed "Hofconcertmeister" (Royal Concertmaster) in that city. However, two years later (1819) he resigned this position and returned to his native city. There he followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, devoting himself to teaching and solo-playing until his death, which occurred on September 8, 1838.

To all accounts Rovelli was a splendid violinist and an excellent teacher, his most celebrated pupil having been Bernhard Molique. Spohr, who heard him play in Munich towards the end of 1815, spoke of his performance in most flattering terms and remarked that "with the advantages of the Parisian school Rovelli had succeeded in combining those qualities which as a rule were lacking in the majority of its students, namely : feeling and personal taste."

A copy of the "Wiener Musikzeitung" (Vienna Music Journal) from the year 1817 (Page 68) contains the following estimate of Rovelli's solo playing : "He is a most pleasing player, and manages to touch the hearts of his listeners so completely through means of his melodious. caressing style of playing, that his audiences are fairly enraptured and reward him with enthusiastic applause. He is a genuine and absolute singer upon his instrument, and combines this rarest of qualities with delightfully pure and perfect intonation, elegant bowing and unusual modesty and reserve."

Little is known of Rovelli as a composer for his instrument, outside of the present set of studies, known as his "12 Caprices." They contain the true fundamental principles of artistic violin playing, and are classed in the same rank as the famous classic studies by Kreutzer, Fiorillo and Rode.

These "Caprices" are of exceptional value for double-stopping, presenting the most cleverly devised interchange of fingers within the limits of special positions. In addition to this they also contain beneficial exercising material for special treatment and higher development of the bow.

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PROFESSOR EDMUND SINGER was born in Totis, Hungary, on October 14, 1830, and studied the violin at



first with Professor Ridley Kohne and Ellinger in Budapest and later on became a pupil of Professor J. Boehm, the famous teacher of Ernst and Joachim.

At first he became identified with the German Theatre in Budapest as orchestral director and soloist. After several years of concert tours extending throughout Germany, France and Holland, he settled in Weimar as concertmaster and chamber virtuoso, succeeding two such celebrities as Laub and Joachim.

Since 1861 he has been identified with similar positions in Stuttgart, where he is also active as Professor at the Royal Conservatory. He has written many compositions for violin solo, duos in connection with Hans von Buelow, and a very complete and extensive

PROF EDMUND SINGER violin school together with Max Seifriz. He has also been most successful as an instructor, and his thorough and artistic revisions of instructive violin works are justly famous.

The present new American Edition of "Rovelli's 12 Caprices" as revised by Edmund Singer, is identical in every detail with the original German edition. Nothing has been altered or added (with the exception of English text, wherever necessary) and the edition as it stands, aims at absolute correctness and presents itself as a fitting tribute to the genius of the two masters who have each, in their way, contributed so lastingly to the progress and development of artistic violin playing.

GUSTAV SAENGER

12 Caprices by P. Rovelli.



^{*)} The fingers to be kept upon the strings as much as possible.

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