

American Record Guide, USA, März 2006

Paganissimo

PAGANINI: 3 *Sonatas*; *Cantabile*; *Rondeau*;
SARASATE: *Playera*; *Zapateado*; TCHAIKOVSKY:
Melodie; RACHMANINOFF: *Vocalise*; PIAZZOL-
LA: *Cafe 1930*; *Night-Club 1960*; MASSENET:
Meditation—Jewgeni Schuk, v; Andrej Lebedev, g
Hera 2116—59 minutes

This is a fine recording of some pretty but forgettable music. Violinist Schuk and guitarist Lebedev are both accomplished players, but this music gives them little opportunity to demonstrate more than their ability to play slow, tuneful audience favorites like Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* in tasteful arrangements. The only relative high points are the two movements from Piazzolla's *Histoire du Tango*, but even these start sounding sleepy and uninteresting in this bland context.

The production is good, with what sounds like a single, relatively distant microphone capturing a natural balance between guitar and violin. The notes offer extensive biographical information on the composers and players.