

REVIEWS *ClassicsToday insider*-- Issue No. 4, April 23, 2011

David Vernier, David Hurwitz, and Robert Levine

Paganini: Ghiribizzi ("Whims")
Denis Sungho Janssens (guitar)

Naxos 8.572566

Artistic Quality: 9/Sound Quality: 9

Despite the fact that new recordings of classical guitar music should be banned for the next several decades (if not centuries), there will always be exceptions. This is certainly one. Paganini wrote his 40-plus "whims" for a young lady guitarist. They consist of short vignettes, often based on music by famous operatic composers: Mozart and Rossini especially. They are delightful and wonderfully played here by Denis Sungho Janssens. The pieces make no apology for being simple and charming, and you can take them in small (or large) doses, as you please. The disc makes excellent background music but sustains the attention if that's your pleasure. Indeed, pleasure is the entire point. Excellent engineering.—*David Hurwitz*