**THE STRAD**

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Romanian born violinist Sherban Lupu is a warm-blooded romantic virtuoso; technically outstanding, generous of tone and possessed of the ability to communicate a passionate involvement with the music.

Enescu's Sonata "In Romanian Style" Op.25 No.3 -a sultry and impassioned work, full of atmosphere but somewhat overlong -suited him to perfection. Its impulsive declamatory phrases, clipped gruppetti and affecting portamentos were all played with an impeccable sense of style, and in the second movement Lupu infused his line with a remarkable variety of colour. he was admirably supported by Claude Cymerman, who handled the vivid piano writing with delicacy and never allowed detail to become unclear.

Chausson's rambling Poeme and Szymanowski's Nollurno e Tarantella were both given similarly eloquent performances while Ysaye's Sonata for Solo Violin, Op.27 No.6, called forth an impressive display of technical bravura. The first movement's relentless double stopping was negotiated with complete assurance, and in the equally difficult second movement -marked Allegretto scherzando -Lupu managed both by intelligent phrasing and by playing up the "scherzando" element, to make music of an arid exercise.

MARTIN PACEY