

Maxim Vengerov is included in ten of the twelve violin DVDs. At age 32, he is Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 2004 Vengerov was awarded both a Grammy and an Edison Award for his recording of the Britten Violin Concerto and after watching this video it is obvious why he is featured so prominently. His class begins with Giovanni Guzzi, accompanied by piano, performing the first movement of the Britten concerto after which Vengerov launches into a lengthy discourse on his artistic conception of the overall piece. Next Vengerov works through the first movement of the concerto with the student. His relaxed nature and ability to generate a positive interpersonal dynamic is communicated on camera. Both student and teacher are engaged in the lesson, and under the direction of the master, this initially intellectual and sterile work is enlivened with drama and emotion. The class was filmed at the Royal Academy before a live audience. The overall tone quality of the instruments was somewhat diminished in this setting but for the most part the class translated well onto video.

Ana Chumachenko, now a Professor at Die Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, studied violin first with her own father, a disciple of Leopold Auer's, and later with Yehudi Menuhin and Joseph Szigeti. This class, devoted to Mozart's Concerti 3, 4, and 5, was filmed at the Verbier Festival Academy and was arranged especially for this series. As such, there was no audience and the Verbier set offered superb sound and more artistic videography than that shot at the Royal Academy. The first performer, Eldbjorg Hemsing, gives a beautiful performance of the first movement of Concerto No. 3, however, the videography in this lesson is extremely distracting. The camera focuses so closely on her face that her hands and instrument are constantly moving in and out of the screen. Also, Chumachenko is sometimes difficult to understand because she was positioned to face the student and was slightly turned away from the camera. Next, Andrej Power performed the first movement of Concerto No. 4 followed by Ania Filowska playing No. 5. In each case Chumachenko helps them attain a new level of musical expression by focusing on the smallest nuances of articulation and dynamics. Her input is fascinating

and this video illustrates well the technical difference between a superior musical performance and one that is average.

Gábor Takács-Nagy coaches the Brahms Quartet No. 3 at the Verbier Academy with Eduard Kunz (piano), Vilde Frang (violin), Barbara Buntrock (viola), and Leonard Elschenbroich (cello). Like the teachers before him, Gábor Takács-Nagy leads an insightful and engaging masterclass. He exhibits a thorough understanding of the historical and stylistic context of the work and he communicates these ideas clearly to the students showing them ways they could use bow speed, dynamics, tone color and vibrato to add a new layer of expressive depth to their music. The sound and videography are very good.

The musical works represented in this video collection are exemplary. They include such staples as the Mozart Concerti and the famous Bach Chaconne from the Partita No. 2 in D minor for violin, and the Beethoven Sonatas and Schubert *Impromptu* for piano. These are complimented by the inclusion of several lesser-known modern works as the Britten Violin Concerto and Messaien's *Vingt Regards sur L'Enfant-Jesus*. Masterclasses on these modern works will be especially valuable to students and teachers.

One of the things that I enjoyed most about this collection was the opportunity to watch several contemporary European teachers at work. But I certainly hope they plan to add some Americans in the future. Intended for students, teachers and libraries, they are reasonably priced. A welcome addition to any personal or institutional library, it is a shame the Masterclass Media Foundation didn't start its work sooner.

Aaron Rosand is, in his own words, the last living representative of the "Grand Tradition" of violin playing. These DVDs are a significant step towards documenting the life and career of this influential man. A legendary virtuoso, he has performed throughout the world. Rosand is currently a professor of violin at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

*Aaron Rosand: Celebrating a Life in Music*, was to me the least interesting of the two videos. It is however, essential viewing for those who do not know much about Rosand. At 65 minutes, it provides bio-