

Partimenti Napoletani

Dol: Partimento in C minor;

Durante: Partimenti; Intavolatura in A minor; Fugue in G minor; Fuga in E minor; **Paisiello:** Partimenti; Rondo in C minor

Katharina Heutjer (violin), Nicoleta Paraschivescu (harpsichord, organ)

Deutsche Harmonia Mundi 19075896222

49:26 mins



A musicology degree in 18th-century Neapolitan pedagogic practice might

help in penetrating some points in Nicoleta Paraschivescu's liner notes for this new disc. Happily no such qualification is needed to savour her playing which is agreeably feisty, forthright and conspicuously vibrant, as she approaches the music with the unstoppable assuredness of a local Vespa aficionado negotiating the bustling alleys of Naples.

In realising the 'partimento' bass lines bequeathed for elaboration by Paisiello and his teacher Durante she has the idiom in her blood. She plays by turns a magnificent copy of a 1735 harpsichord by Blanchet and the grandeur of the Silbermann organ in Arlesheim Cathedral – the latter not exclusively 'grand':

it bedecks Durante's *Intavolatura* in A minor with a beguiling flutey flightiness. Ringing the changes further, Paraschivescu also calls on Katharina Heutjer when Paisiello demands 'harpsichord with the accompaniment of a violin'.

In championing the nearly-lost art of the partimento – a training method that stood composers from Bellini to Verdi in good stead – Paraschivescu throws open a fascinating window on a method that's been making something of a comeback. The result, dashingy executed, vividly imagined, is a breath of fresh air. *Paul Riley*

PERFORMANCE

★★★★

RECORDING

★★★★★