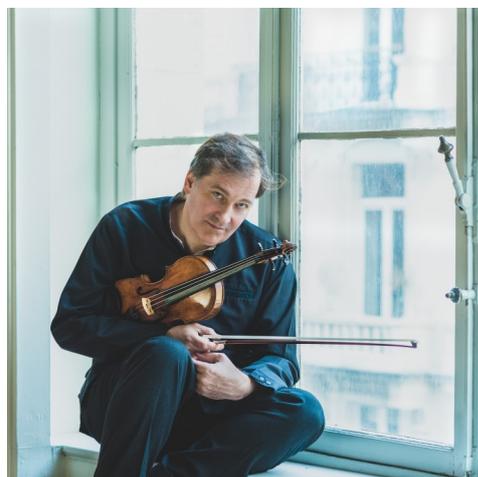


PHILIPPE GRAFFIN

PHILIPPE GRAFFIN continues to explore and expand the violin repertoire. Following on from discoveries such as the chamber version of Chausson's Poème, original settings of works by Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and the Elgar violin concerto or the forgotten violin concerto of Samuel Coleridge Taylor, to name but a few, **Philippe has now discovered an unknown sonata by Eugene YSAÏE** and violinists around the world are now realising that there are, in fact, SEVEN solo sonatas by Ysaÿe. Written at the same time as the main set, and for the same Spanish violinist (Manuel Quiroga) as No 6, the work is of equal merit.



IN THE MEDIA

The discovery was announced by The Strad in May 2018, followed by a 5-page feature article in the Feb 2019 issue (as per the photo above) on how and where the discovery was made and Philippe's work to finish the piece.

ON STAGE

Philippe gave the world premiere in Brussels and has since performed the work in several countries in Europe as well as in Japan and the United States.

'In Thursday night's performance, Graffin's expressive tone brought a human warmth to the Canzona, and the violinist tossed off the leaps and driving figures with fine control and technical polish. Each phrase built to a sure resolution in the dance-like finale. With a mix of technical fireworks and tender pages, Graffin's [completion] makes a worthy addition to Ysaÿe's sonatas, works that lie at the heart of the violin repertoire.' (Boston Classical Review, 21 June 2019)

Philippe's completion of the work, now known as Sonate posthume pour violon seul, Op 27bis, will soon be published by Schott Music, Mainz.

ON CD

Philippe has recorded the work on a fascinating CD entitled **Fiddler's Blues**, recorded by Westdeutsche Rundfunk, Cologne and marketed by Avie Records (AV2399).

Both Gramophone and Diapason (France) use the word 'panache' in their reviews:

'Played with flourishing panache and easy command, it makes an electrifying opening to this deceptively titled recital: essentially a survey of the 20th-century Parisian scene [...]

The shorter pieces share the general mood of passion tempered by refinement.

Graffin's gleaming, elegant virtuosity never degenerates either into lassitude or fireworks for fireworks' sake, and the exquisite little unaccompanied transcription of Clair de lune (co-written with David Matthews) deserves to become a standard encore – though I strongly suspect that, like everything on this splendid disc, it's not remotely as effortless as Graffin makes it sound'. Gramophone / April 2019

'Aux deux mouvements achevés et à l'amorce de finale déjà écrite, Graffin appose quelques dernières mesures plus vraie que nature. Son geste agile et élastique rend le tout avec un panache remarquable'. Diapason / July 2019



ON FILM:

There is a half-hour documentary about the discovery and Knokke, where Ysaÿe wrote the Sonata. See Youtube: https://youtu.be/pol0tCLHo_A

Philippe will also be featured in a further documentary being producing by RTBF about Ysaÿe alongside other violinists such as Joshua Bell and Augustin Dumay.