Mauro Giuliani

WORKS FOR VIOLIN & GUITAR

Notes by Brian Jeffrey

The music on this recording comes from the Viennese Classical world in which Mauro Giuliani played a full part. Born in Italy, he came to Vienna in about 1806 and immediately made a great impression there. He did not merely play solo music, but performed continually with other musicians; with Moscheles the pianist, Mayseder the violinist, Hummel and many others. He is even said to have performed - perhaps playing the violoncello - in the first performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony in Vienna in 1813. Giuliani's compositions were not only for the solo guitar; very many of them were for guitar with other instruments, and this recording presents three of them. There are in all about 22 surviving works by Giuliani for guitar with flute or violin, ranging from full-scale virtuoso duos to easy works for beginners. All of them show a full grasp of the nature and capabilities not only of his own instrument the guitar, but also of the others. It may be mentioned too, that he composed and arranged hundreds of songs with guitar and piano accompaniment.

The earliest of the three works on this recording, the *Duo Concertant* opus 25, was first published in Vienna in about 1812. It is an extensive virtuoso work, and the elaborate title page of the first edition shows that it was intended to be seen as a major work. In fact the greater part of the interest lies in the lusciously romantic and melodious violin part, while the guitar, except for three passages in the second movement, is content to be accompaniment. As we know that by 1812 Giuliani had already composed and published many virtuoso works for solo guitar, perhaps we can guess that the relatively subordinate nature of the guitar here has to do with the circumstances of its composition – perhaps it was a work of that nature that was commissioned from him.

Credits:

Recorded in May 1988 at Hellerup Sognegaard
with support from the Augustinus Foundation and
the Danish Musicians' Union.

Engineering and producer: Karin Jürgensen
Remastering: Ole Hansen, Sound Track 2, June 2007.

Liner notes: Brian Jeffrey and Lars Hannibal
First recording of Six variations opus 63.

Editions: Original editions by Brian Jeffrey,
except Rondeau from opus 25.

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LARS HANNIBAL

Lars Hannibal (b.1951) studied the guitar at the *Royal Academy of Music* in Århus and the lute with Toyohiko Satoh in The Hague. Since completing his studies in 1980, he has focused his career on chamber music and his work as an accompanist. For many years, Lars Hannibal was also an associate guitar teacher at the *Royal Academy of Music* in Århus.

In addition to his work in *Duo Concertante*, in 1992 he formed a duo with his wife, the recorder player Michala Petri. Together they have since toured the world, and played in some of the most prestigious concert halls and festivals such as the Wigmore Hall in London, the Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival in Germany and the Shanghai International Festival of Arts. They have released three CDs on RCA/BMG including *Kreisler Inspirations*, which received the prestigious German award *Deutscher Schallplattenpreis* in 2002. Their fourth CD, *Siesta*, has been released on their own recording label OUR Recordings.

Lars Hannibal is also well known for his collaboration with musicians from other genres. Since 2004, he has worked more intensively with Chinese musicians, and in 2007 released *Spirits – East meets West* with the high-profile Chinese xiao (bamboo flute) player Chen Yue.

The Six Variations, opus 63, are specifically dedicated to Giuliani's friend and colleague Joseph Mayseder (1879-1863). Here the instruments shine alternately, and the work, while on a smaller scale than either of the two others, is more a true duet than they. The guitar is allowed to shine more, while the violin part seems to have a particularly romantic, almost Gypsy-like style, which we are tempted to suggest reflects Mayseder's style of playing.

The last work, the *Gran Duetto Concertante*, opus 52, dates from some two years later, in about 1814. Here Giuliani has allowed the guitar rather more freedom than in the earlier work, but still the violin stands out as having the greater part of the musical interest. It is interesting to note that the third and last movement in this work is a long and elaborate Rondo Militaire. This was a time when there was much talk of military matters; it was the year of the Congress of Vienna, and it has been suggested that Giuliani's opus 52 may have had some connection with that important event. It was in the same year, too, that Mauro Giuliani published his *Originäl Märsche der Verbündeten Mächte*, which are remarkable arrangements for flute and guitar of marches of the troops of the Allied Powers at the time gathered in Vienna.

DUO CONCERTANTE

Kim Sjøgren and I first met in 1971 when we both studied at the *Royal Academy of Music* in Århus.
We played together from time to time - many different kinds of music, including folk, rock and jazz. In 1980 we started performing under the name *Duo Concertante* and continued until 1994. During that time we played more than 1000 concerts, recorded ten CDs, and appeared on many television and radio programmes of various kinds. Our main performing field was Denmark, but we toured extensively in Spain and played concerts in Germany and France too.
Our tenth anniversary concert was in the Wigmore Hall in London, with a programme including electrically amplified instruments - used for the first time in this wonderful historic hall!

Our repertoire often reflected our interest in different kinds of music such as jazz and folk, though the essence of the programming was the classical repertoire such as Paganini, Giuliani, Sarasate, Grieg and Nielsen, as well as the contemporary music written especially for us.

KIM SJØGREN

Kim Sjøgren (b.1955) became the youngest ever leader of the *Royal Danish Orchestra* at the age of 22, and was there for ten years. His studies, after his debut when he was only 17, took place in Boston with Joseph Silverstein, on the recommendation of Isaac Stern. Kim Sjøgren has toured the world both as a soloist and as a chamber musician. For many years he was also the leader of *Copenhagen String Trio*, with whom he recorded many works, among others the *Beethoven String Trios*.
In 1997 he formed a chamber ensemble, the *Little Mermaid Orchestra*, and in 2005 he became Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music in Århus. Kim Sjøgren's impressive discography also includes Beethoven's and Carl Nielsen's *Violin Concertos*, and his repertoire includes all the major violin works.

Since he was a child Kim Sjøgren has been interested in all kinds of music, and today he still says: "There are only two kinds of music – good and bad!" This attitude has always been reflected in his choices both in his career and in his repertoire. He is also a musical entertainer, and works and records frequently with musicians from other genres.

Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829)

Duo Concertant for violin and guitar opus 25

1 Maestoso 6:21
2 Theme and Variations 9:00
3 Menuetto 4:10
4 Rondeau: Allegretto 5:24

Total 25:05

Six Variations for violin and guitar opus 63

5 . . . . . 12:12

Gran Duetto Concertante for violin and guitar opus 52

6 Andante sostenuto 4:02
7 Menuetto 3:24
8 Rondo Militaire: Allegretto 6:47

Total 14:00

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