

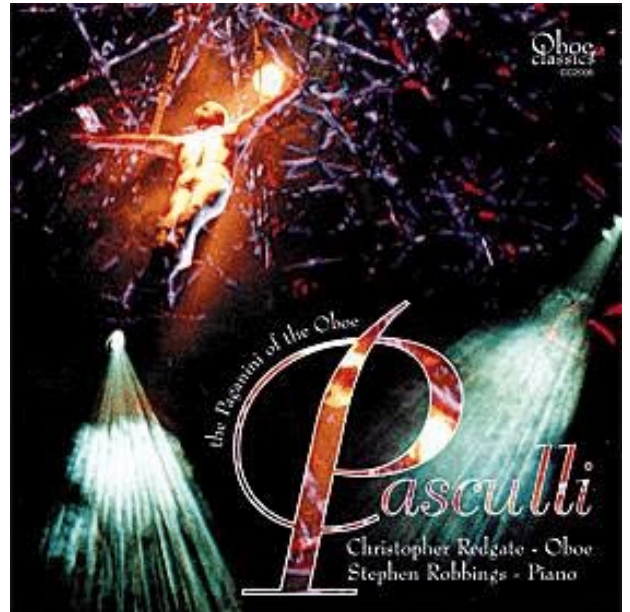
Pasculli

Christopher Redgate (oboe) **Stephen Robbings** (piano)

19th Century performer/composer Antonino Pasculli has been described as 'the Paganini of the oboe', writing numerous operatic fantasies to demonstrate his phenomenal finger technique - one that Christopher Redgate matches with ease.

The study *Le Api* (The Bees) is a four-minute high wire act. But Pasculli's music is not just idle virtuosity, he uses it to develop the themes in, for example, the *Sicilian Vespers* Concerto. And what themes! There is one of melting simplicity in the *Les Huguenots* Fantasia.

Pasculli's writing is leavened with a spirit of geniality, especially in the *Poliuto* Fantasia, evoking the Italian countryside. But virtuosity is the keynote, with seemingly impossible feats of derring-do, as in the variations from *La Favorita*.



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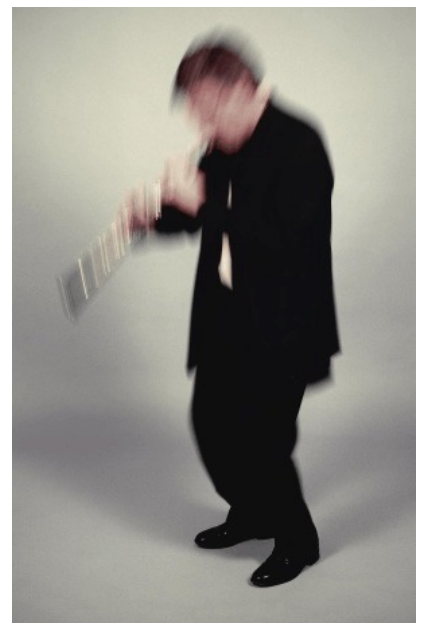
The download version has an introduction to Pasculli. The CD version has a 24-page booklet with an extended essay on Pasculli and his music in English, Italian and German, with many photos, including Pasculli's oboe. More details are at www.oboeconcertos.com/Pasculli.htm

"This is a disc to open the ears of all oboists, and to entertain and astonish less specialist music-lovers." *Anthony Burton, BBC Music Magazine*

"Christopher Redgate needs all his considerable virtuosity to negotiate the fiendish challenges set by Pasculli on themes from Verdi, Meyerbeer and Donizetti, not to mention the 'characteristic study' *Le Api* (The Bees). This is fascinating music played with extreme panache." *Anthony Holden, Observer*

"Christopher Redgate is an oboist who thrives on technical demands, the more extreme the better, and his disc is a remarkable tour de force." *Christopher Hooker, Double Reed News UK*

"This is an incredible CD for everyone who enjoys brilliant performers and performances." *Gary Higginson, Music Web International*



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