

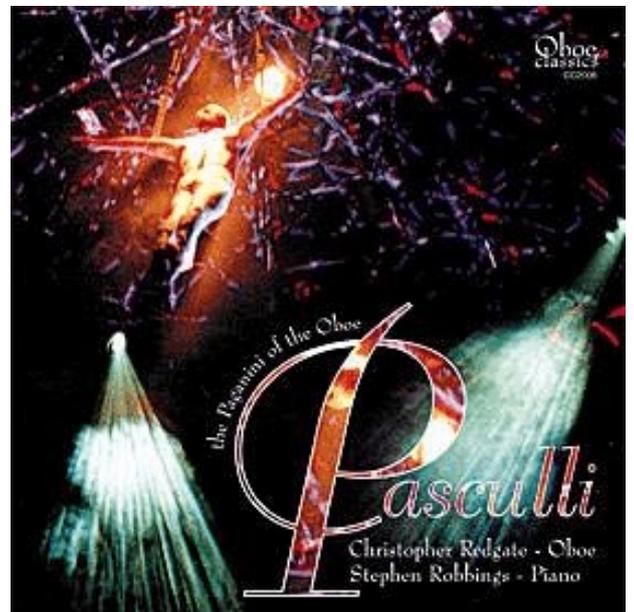
Pasculli

Christopher Redgate (oboe) Stephen Robbins (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 CD 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.

"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

