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## Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 08-08-2008 00:01

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You know in Sherlock Holmes where occasionally Jeremy Brett would be playing some edgy violin music? Who are the best composers for this sort of stuff? Andy C? Statto? Ursus? Fitter Happier?

I've got plenty of King Of The Slums already, thanks.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by statto99 - 08-08-2008 00:39

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Go straight to Eugène Ysaÿe's violin sonatas. Do not pass go. Do not collect £200.

Examples below, played by Maxim Vengerov who has recorded four of them:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v2jUf\\_csZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v2jUf_csZE)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjA9sBQ\\_0Jo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjA9sBQ_0Jo)

And here's a snatch of an excellent recording by Thomas Zehetmair that I myself have, and he recorded all six:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3vdeooU3pE>

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by wingco - 08-08-2008 08:30

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If you want way-beyond-the-edgy, try Salvatore Sciarrino.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 08-08-2008 08:33

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You could do a lot worse than the new Minotaur Shock album, actually (although that's more a case of edgy cello music, with electronic basslines).

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by EIM - 08-08-2008 09:03

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Who are the best composers for this sort of stuff? Andy C? Statto? Ursus? Fitter Happier?

Didn't realise we had so many violinists on OTF.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Andy C - 08-08-2008 09:13

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A bit post-Holmes, but I reckon this Bartok sonata has a lot of the qualities of quiet disturbed stream-of-consciousness introspection that you're looking for.

Ysaye is a good call up there.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Lyra - 08-08-2008 10:06

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Do you like Berg, Tubby?

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Disco Sea Shanties - 08-08-2008 12:10

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I find there's a lot of edgy violin playing in folk music. I suspect this is something that Andy C also knows a lot more about than me.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Andy C - 08-08-2008 19:31

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It's difficult to imagine the great detective scraping his Strad for some lumpy Fenland step-dance tune from the repertoire of Eely Went, but there are certainly plenty of places you can go to hear music with a bit of otherness, mystery and bite. The spectral ringing strings of the Norwegian Hardingfele, for example - here is a fantastic fifty-year-old archive clip of an old traditional player.

The rest of Scandinavia comes up with music that fits the remit, too - this is a traditional polska (not a polka, mark you) that sounds all wrought and irregular despite being dance music. (The effect is heightened when, as is common, there's a second fiddle playing a second line.) See also Finland and Denmark.

And this short snatch of a bourrée gives you a flavour of what French traditional fiddling can sound like.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 08-08-2008 21:32

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Thanks for all this. Next step is to see if they have them at Barbican Library.

Thanks again.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Fatter Hipper - 09-08-2008 20:49

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Didn't realise we had so many violinists on OTF.

I do actually play violin in a couple of The Exploits of Elaine tracks. Well, when I say play I mean I loop drones on one track and use the body as a percussion instrument on another.

Anyway, the following are all edgy in very different ways...

Pendercki's Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima is fucking horrible. Full strings, not just violins. His violin concerto is stunning too. Cale and Terry Riley's stuff from the Theater of Eternal Music is awesome, although it's viola. Jean Luc-Ponty's violin lead fusion is pretty hot sometimes.

Martin Carthy is probably my favourite violinist (or fiddler). Great English folk fiddler (check out Fairport Convention's Liege and Lief) but with a good understanding of more experimental techniques (check out Martin Carthy and Swarbrick's Reynardine).

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Disco Sea Shanties - 09-08-2008 22:19

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Fatter, I think you're getting Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick confused there. Swarbrick's the fiddler, Carthy plays guitar.

I think Jon Boden (of Spiers and Boden and Bellowhead) is a great folk fiddler.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 11-08-2008 12:05

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Right, first up will be Ysaye. The library has the following:

<http://onlinecatalogue.cityoflondon.gov.uk/TalisPrism/doSearch.do;jsessionid=B5693A9A0D4617181E74991D2A7718E6.worker1>

What do you reckon, Statto?

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by statto99 - 11-08-2008 12:12

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I can't see the exact same results as you, there, TI, but from doing a quick "Ysaye" search myself I would plump for the Zehetmair recording which seems to be listed as:

Sonates pour violon solo

Ysaye, Eugène, 1858-1931 Other titles by Author(s)  
compact disc

Publication Date: 2004

Control Number: R4726872

It won awards, you know. And I love it.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 12-08-2008 15:23

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Got that from the library just now. They had two different people playing the same things and I luckily remembered which one you recommended.

Lyra, I also got some Alban Berg.

Looking fwd to this stuff.

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## Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Fatter Hipper - 14-08-2008 12:53

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Fatter, I think you're getting Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick confused there. Swarbrick's the fiddler, Carthy plays guitar.

Indeed, I knew that. A damn fine guitarist too.

Silly me.

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### Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by Tubby Isaacs - 15-08-2008 20:17

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What a great recording that Zehetmair/Ysaye you recommended is, Statto.

I mentioned Sherlock Holmes in the intro. This is more like Vincent Van Gogh for its edginess. Yet it's got a tune as well, as though there's method in the madness- someone should tell Kevin Shields and he might stop playing 10 minutes of feedback as though it's clever. Brilliant.

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### Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by statto99 - 16-08-2008 16:04

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Tubby,

I'm absolutely delighted that you like it. When you said what you were after I felt very strongly that Ysaye fitted the description and especially the riveting interpretation by Zehetmair.

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### Re:Edgy violin music wanted

Posted by marke - 05-09-2008 13:17

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Spearmint Rhino wrote:

You could do a lot worse than the new Minotaur Shock album, actually (although that's more a case of edgy cello music, with electronic basslines).

hey SR, if you have that on cd, then you are in very limited company.

4ad have decided to not release the album.

there were plans for a big fancy special packaging thing (in same league as that Laura Marling limited edition), but it seems a recent shakeup has put any such ideas in the 'you are joking' bin, meaning that this album is a digital only release.

a real shame given that one of the tracks, this plane .. is a superb slice of hot chip styled electro-dance-pop which could have had genuine crossover chances.