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Recordings stir memories of New Orleans concerts, and whet critic's appetite for more

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By Chris Waddington

As a diehard fan of live music, I'm always a little worried when the New Orleans classical scene slows down during the summer. All the players seem to be traveling to far-flung festivals, and I'm stuck at home with my memories and a daunting pile of recorded music. This year, however, the situation is brighter, because so many new CDs remind me of great concerts I've heard in New Orleans — or concerts I expect to attend in the coming season.



Lorena Alcaraz

Violinist Philippe Quint, left, has recorded a new CD with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Minería, a Mexican festival group led by Carlos Miguel Prieto, right, who is also the music director of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Topping the list is “Quint-Prieto-Mineria” (Avanticlassics), the splendid new CD that violinist Philippe Quint recorded with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Minería, a Mexican festival group led by Carlos Miguel Prieto, the music director of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. The program is a familiar one — violin concertos by Mendelssohn and Bruch, and a pair of Beethoven romances — but the playing is uncommonly impassioned. Prieto and Quint take plenty of risks, conjuring the romantic fire at the core of these works. In this case, it clearly helps that Quint and Prieto have played together in many settings. (One of Quint’s four Grammy nominations was for work with Prieto’s Mexican band, and the two men have made several joint appearances with the LPO).

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