



A Look at the Lifepath of Niccolò Paganini

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Abstract: This article talks about the life path of the great violinist Niccolò Paganini, his achievements during his life, his close people, his illness and hardships.

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For contemporaries, he was a mystery. Some saw him as a genius, others as a charlatan and a swindler. His name was shrouded in legends and mysteries.

At the end of October 1782, in Genoa, in the alley of the Black Cat, the second child was born in the family of Antonio Paganini and Teresa Bocciardo - the son of Niccolò. The boy was born weak and sickly. From an exalted and sensitive mother, he inherited fragility and susceptibility to disease. From his father he inherited temperament, perseverance, seething energy.

One day his mother saw in a dream a beautiful angel who predicted that her second son would be a great musician. The boy's father, a music lover, also believed in this. Antonio was very disappointed that the eldest son Carlo did not please his parents with success in music. That is why he directed all his energy to making his youngest son constantly practice playing the violin. Thus began the biography of Paganini. He was practically devoid of childhood. It took place in exhausting music lessons.

As if compensating for the physical weakness of the child, nature generously rewarded him with perfect, extremely sensitive hearing. Studying music, Niccolò Paganini discovered a new world, painted with unusual colors. He tried to recreate it by playing the guitar, the mandolin and the little violin that was both his best friend and tormentor.

The father early considered the abilities of his son. Every day he understood more and more clearly that his son was endowed with a huge talent, which in the future would lead to fame and big money. He was well aware that his time with his son was over and it was time to hire professional musicians. In order for the classes to take place almost constantly, the little musician was locked in a dark closet, and his father carefully watched that the music flowed continuously. For disobedience, the child was deprived of food. Such activities undermined the already fragile health of the boy.

Niccolò Paganini felt music with all his soul. Despite the fact that classes exhausted him physically, in music he found peace and satisfaction. His first teacher was the Genoese poet, composer and violinist Francesca Gnecco. Paganini's biography is full of interesting meetings with creative people.

Niccolò very early began to create music himself. Already at the age of eight he wrote a sonata for violin and several difficult variations. Gradually, the rumor about the little brilliant violinist began to spread around the city, and a well-known violinist in the city from the chapel of the Cathedral of San Lorenzo drew attention to the talented child. His name was Giacomo Costa. He began to study with Paganini once a week, carefully observing his development and passing on the secrets of mastery to him. These sessions continued for more than six months.

After classes with Costa, Paganini's life changed. He was able to start doing concert activities. This happened in 1794, when the young musician was barely twelve years old. At this time, he met people who greatly influenced his future destiny. It should be noted that Paganini's biography is full of meetings with people who helped the young talent improve his skills.

The wealthy aristocrat and music lover Giancarlo di Negro from Genoa became not only an admirer of the young violinist, he became his friend, who took care of his further education. Niccolò's new teacher was Gasparo Ghiretti, a good polyphonist who managed to instill in the young man an excellent composing technique. He taught Paganini to compose music without an instrument, using his inner ear.

In just a few months, the musician composed twenty-four fugues for piano, several pieces, which, unfortunately, were lost and did not reach us, and two violin concertos. After a brilliant performance in Parma, they wanted to listen to the young musician at the court of the Duke of Bourbon.

Niccolo's father quickly realized that the time had come to receive money for his son's talent. He took on the role of impresario and organized a tour of Northern Italy. In all cities Niccolo expected a stunning success. The young man, like a sponge, absorbed new unprecedented impressions, continuing to train a lot, improving his skills.

During this period, the famous capriccios are born, in which one can easily see a change in the principles and techniques that were introduced by Locatelli. The maestro's teacher had technical exercises, while Niccolò had brilliant, original miniatures. Capriccio Paganini made a real revolution in violin music. He was able to achieve the maximum concentration of expressiveness, collecting its artistic meaning into a compressed spring.

The Italian temperament of Niccolo, the formed character began to increasingly lead to conflicts and quarrels in the family. Complete dependence on the father becomes more and more tiring for the young man. He wants freedom. That is why, when he was offered the position of first violin in Lucca, he accepted the offer with joy and gratitude. He became the head of the city orchestra. In addition, he had the opportunity to give concerts. He performs with great success in Milan, Pisa, Livorno. The enthusiastic reception of the public is dizzying.

Niccolo was passionate and ardent not only in music. It was at this time that he met his first love, and his name disappeared from posters for almost three years. Several guitar compositions dedicated to the mysterious "Signore Dida" appear. In 1804, the musician returned to Genoa, where he was engaged only in writing. Then he returns to Lucca again, where Felice Bacocchi ruled, who at that time was married to Napoleon's sister, Princess Elisa.

Paganini writes and dedicates to her the "Love Scene" for two strings ("La" and "Mi"). During the performance of the composition, other strings were removed. The product created a sensation. Then the princess wished that a piece for one string be written for her, and Paganini accepted the challenge. He created the sonata "Napoleon" for one string "Sol", which he triumphantly presented at the Court Concert.

At the end of 1814, the maestro comes to his homeland with concerts. All his performances are held with unprecedented success. The papers call him a genius, whether he's an angel or a demon.

Niccolo Paganini, whose biography is inextricably linked with music, unfortunately, devoted very little time to his health. In 1821, his career was suddenly interrupted by failing health. He was increasingly tormented by bouts of severe coughing, pain in the intestines and kidneys. His condition kept deteriorating. Rubbing mercury ointment, the strictest diet does not help him. There are even rumors that the maestro has died. But these are just rumors. The biography of Paganini is not finished yet. The condition improved a little, but even after coming out of the most difficult crisis, the great musician did not take up the violin.

In April 1824, Niccolo unexpectedly arrives in Milan and announces his desire to give a concert. Then he gives a concert in Pavia and Genoa. At this time, he resumes relations with Antonia Bianchi, who by that time had become a famous singer who had success at La Scala. They have a son,

Achilles. Paganini works hard. At this time, new works appear - "Military Sonata", "Polish Variations", "Companella". The second violin concerto in B minor becomes the culmination of the musician's creative work. After it, he did not create anything more light, exciting and joyful.

The biography of Paganini consists of an interweaving of happy and tragic events. In the spring of 1830, the great musician gave concerts in Westphalia, where he received the title of baron, which is inherited.

In October 1839, Niccolo Paganini visited his native Genoa for the last time in his life. He already feels very bad. For the last five months of his life, he cannot leave the house, his legs swell up badly, and he is exhausted to the point of not being able to pick up the bow. His favorite violin lay next to him, and he plucked its strings with his fingers.

The great musician, composer, virtuoso performer died in Nice on May 27, 1840 at the age of fifty-eight.

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