

Henryk Wieniawski was a great violin virtuoso whose music reflected his technical mastery and talent. He composed two violin concertos almost 10 years apart, each having distinct styles that suggested the influences of successful violinists and composers at the time such as Niccolò Paganini, Henri Vieuxtemps and Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst.

The first concerto was premiered in Leipzig with Wieniawski as the soloist, who was at that time, only 17 years old. While lesser known than his second concerto, the first is technically more challenging - made obvious right from the start of the first movement which opens with a tenth interval high up on the violin's register. The first movement features techniques such as down bow and up bow staccato, finger octaves and double stop harmonics, to show off the soloist's technical prowess. In contrast to the explosive writing in the first movement, the second movement is titled *Pregiera* (The Prayer) and marked 'Sul G.' as the violinist soars with beautiful singing melodies. The music shifts quickly as the sound of fanfare is heard and launches straight into the final movement. In the form of a rondo, the third movement features folk-like melodies that are reminiscent of Hungarian tunes and ends with a bravado coda.