Nineteenth Century Noise

by Gary Hardaway

The virtuoso tortures a violin
in homage to Paganini.

The brief festival of Romantic era
excess pierces and agitates

Baroque sensibilities of the
hearer trapped in a small car

on a rush hour freeway.
Thank God Paganini wasn't

a drummer, drum solos being
the most obnoxious stretches in music.

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