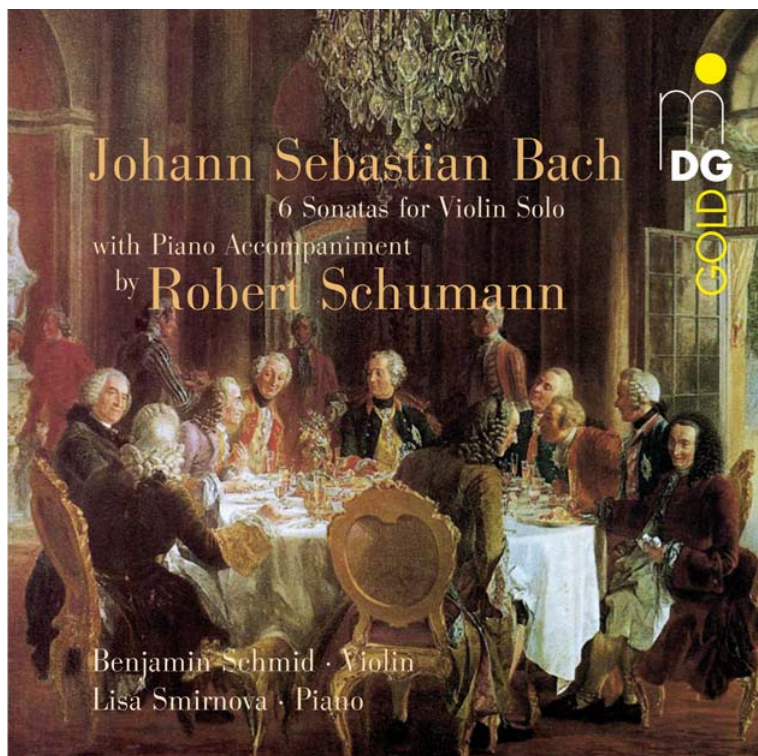


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01/10-(5)

**J. S. Bach / R. Schumann**  
6 Sonatas for Violin Solo  
with Piano Accompaniment

Benjamin Schmid, violin  
Lisa Smirnova, piano

2 CDs (special price)

**Order No.: MDG 333 0614-2**

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### Unique Experience

The present CD is an impressive recording of Bach's violin solo compositions interpreted by Robert Schumann. Here baroque genius and romantic inspiration team up to offer us a new and unique listening experience.

### Prime Mover

Felix Mendelssohn, the prime mover of the nineteenth-century Bach revival, had already set a precedent for Schumann with his piano accompaniment for the famous Chaconne from Bach's Partita II. Ear-witnesses reported that Mendelssohn had „performed the accompaniment so well that the old eternal Thomaskantor himself seemed to have had a hand in it.“

### With the Listener in Mind

Schumann's piano accompaniment served as an introduction to Bach for a public unfamiliar with Bach's oeuvre and as orientation to harmonic progression in the violin part, something that is and was often missed by the untrained ear. Schumann also added color to the originals and tonal depth to their texture - all to make Bach intelligible to nineteenth-century audiences and to secure him a place in the romantic concert repertoire.

### True to the Original

Schumann proceeded with great caution and respect in his arrangement of Bach's violin sonatas. Although he did not alter the original violin part, the piano accompaniment is very much his own unique artistic creation.

### Dynamic Duo

The Viennese violinist Benjamin Schmid has compiled an impressive list of competition and concert credits. His sensational success at the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition in Paris and at numerous other competitions helped him to launch his concert career.

Schmid's piano accompanist, the Moscow native Lisa Smirnova, received the first prize at the USSR National Competition at the age of fourteen and has gone on to perform throughout Europe, in the Near East, and the United States.