

NEW • NOUVEAUTE • NEUHEIT

MDG
GOLD



08/10-(5)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Violin Sonatas No. 1-3

Ensemble Villa Musica
Nicolas Chumachenko, violin
Kalle Randalu, piano

1 CD

Order-No.: MDG 304 1647-2

UPC-Code:



LC06768

Birthday Bicentennial

On this CD the Ensemble Villa Musica joins the line of congratulants on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of Robert Schumann's birth. Nicolas Chumachenko (violin) and Kalle Randalu (piano) present the three violin sonatas composed by Schumann in Düsseldorf, rendering them with the quality that has become the Villa Musica trademark during the course of its more than thirty recordings.

Unique Inspiration

The Sonata for Pianoforte and Violin op. 105 from 1851 was Robert Schumann's first piece for these two instruments. His friend, the Gewandhaus concertmaster Ferdinand David, inspired him to compose it and wrote, "There is such a great lack of good new things, and I know nobody who could do it better than you. How fine it would be if you now would compose something of this kind which I then could play with your wife."

Instant Upgrade

Schumann composed his second violin sonata shortly after his first such work and himself made fun of the brief space of time between them. Op. 105 had not pleased him, "so I then made a second one, which hopefully has turned out better." Already the title of the work, "Second Grand Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte", with its attribute "Grand", points to the existence of differences between the two works. It is also interesting that Schumann designated his Op. 121 as a "Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte" instead of using the conventional title "Sonata for Pianoforte and

Violin". Might it be that attention is being called to the primacy of the solo instrument over the pianoforte and emphasis is being placed on a new interrelational positioning of the two instruments?

Sonata Surprise

The F. A. E. Sonata was a joint composition by Albert Dietrich, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms. It was intended as a surprise for their friend, the young violinist Joseph Joachim, who was supposed to guess the composer of each movement on his first playing of the work. The movements refer to the motivic tones f-a-e, which in turn stand for the initial letters of Joachim's motto ("Frei aber einsam" = "free but lonely"). The first performance of the work, which Schumann himself termed the "Sonata Surprise", was held in the composer's home on 28 October 1853, the day prior to the first public performance of the Violin Sonata No. 2 op. 121. Already one day later Schumann began composing two new movements, which together with his intermezzo (second movement) and finale (fourth movement) from the F. A. E. Sonata form an independent work and the third violin sonata by him on this program.

Amilcare Ponchielli

Chamber Music
MDG 304 1618-2

Richard Strauss

Suite op. 4, Serenade op. 7, Sonatina
MDG 304 1173-2