# Richard STRAUSS

SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO IN E FLAT MAJOR, OP.18

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2 | Improvisation - Andante cantabile

3 III Finale: Andante-Allegro

11:42 8:18 7:58

## CÉSAR FRANCK

SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO IN A MAJOR 4 I Allegretto ben moderato

5 II Allegro

6 III Recitativo-Fantasia
(Ben moderato – Molto lento)

7 IV Allegretto poco mosso

7:19 6:22

6:32

9:01

CATHERINE MANOUKIAN VIOLEN

XIAMN WANG



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césar Franch

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CATHERINE MANOUKIAN

PIANO XIAMN WANG

### **Richard STRAUSS**

SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO IN E FLAT MAJOR, OP. 18

Richard Strauss (1864–1949) composed his Sonata for Violin and Piano in E flat major, Op. 18 between the years of 1887 and 1888; at a pivotal phase in his career. At this juncture, Strauss had already composed, published and performed a number of his compositions and was labeled by his mentor, the notable conductor Hans von Bülow, as being 'by far the most striking personality since Brahms.'

Strauss received a thorough music education from his father Franz Joseph Strauss, the principal horn player in the Royal Opera in Munich, Germany. Under his father's conservative instruction, Strauss' early studies focused on the classical works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms. As much as he respected classical idioms, Strauss, in his early twenties, was encouraged by violinist and composer Alexander Ritter to examine the revolutionary works of Liszt and Wagner, composers his father forbid him to listen to.

Eager to explore new ventures in music, Strauss veered from the structure of his classical training into the innovative nature of tone poems, characterized by the early romantic composers. At the age of 23 with a new approach to composition, he composed his violin and piano sonata contemporaneously with his symphonic fantasy *Aus Italien* and the famous tone poem *Don Juan*. The close proximity of these great works is evident as they are full of youthful energy, passion, fervor and song-like lines.

### CÉSAC FRANCK

SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO

violinist.

Over 100 years span the time between the first performance of César Franck's Sonata for violin and piano in A major and a memorable performance by a young

Franck's sonata was first performed in 1886 by the virtuoso violinist Eugene Ysaÿe. The sonata was composed as a wedding gift for Ysaÿe and Franck presented him with the manuscript at his wedding day breakfast. Wasting no time, Ysaÿe rehearsed the composition and performed it at his own nuptials. The sonata soon became a signature piece in Ysaÿe's repertoire.

Franck was once the organist, playing a violin once owned by Ysaye. This was significant moment in her musical career.

Franck's only sonata for violin and piano was composed in the last decade of his life during a highly creative and productive time. Having finally encountered significant success among his peers, Franck composed a handful of recognized works such as his Prelude, Chorale and Fugue for piano solo and *Symphonic Variations for Piano and Orchestra* alongside his sonata. Influenced by Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt, Franck uses chromatic harmonies and employs cyclical form to create unity with several motifs in each of the four movements.

At the age of 16, Catherine Manoukian had the opportunity

to perform Franck's sonata at a Parisian church where

### catherine manoukian

VIOLIN

Catherine Manoukian's professional career began at the age of twelve when she won the grand prize at the 1994 Canadian Music Competition. She was born in Toronto, began violin studies with her father, and made her first stage appearance at the age of four. From 1994 to 2000, Catherine studied with the late, world-renowned violin pedagogue Dorothy DeLay in New York



Catherine's orchestral debut was Catherine's extra-musical with the Vancouver Symphony education includes in 1994, playing Paganini's undergraduate and postgraduate first violin concerto. In degrees in history and subsequent years, she has philosophy. soloed with many major orchestras, including the

musician at the Aspen.

International Festivals.

Caramoor, and Newport

www.catherinemanoukian.com

# XIAUIN WANG

As recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral soloist and recording artist, Xiayin Wang has been recognized for her commanding performances and the rare ability to blend warmth and beauty with technical brilliance.

Xiavin has performed at Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium. where she made her orchestral debut performing the Schumann Piano Concerto and Ravel's Concerto in G Major with the City Symphony under conductor George Manahan She was presented in recital as part of the Prestige Series at the International Keyboard Institute and Festival at Mannes College of Music in New York. Her debut recording Introducing

Xiayin Wang was released in 2007 and her Brahms chamber recordings with the Amity Players in 2008 were both released by Marquis.

Xiayin Wang began playing piano at the age of five in her native China, where she was nurtured by her musician father. Zhongyu Wang, known throughout China for his performances on the erhu. a two-stringed fiddle. Xiayin entered the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of nine, where she garnered an enviable collection of first-prize awards and special honors. After moving to New York, Xiayin won the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall by the Associated Music Teacher League. While pursuing studies at the Manhattan School of Music, she won the school's Eisenberg Concerto Competition and the Roy M. Rubinstein Award, Xiavin Wang holds Bachelor's, Master's, and Professional Studies degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and is a Steinway Artist.

www.xiayinwangpiano.com

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#### CREDITS

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