

Brahms: Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 100

Composed during the summer of 1886 in Thun, Switzerland, Brahms's Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major is often described as his most intimate and lyrical violin sonata. Unlike the dramatic urgency of the First Sonata or the expansive virtuosity of the Third, this work radiates warmth, ease, and personal contentment. Brahms wrote it during a particularly happy period of his life, surrounded by friends and nature, and this sense of serenity permeates the entire piece.

The opening movement unfolds with a gentle, song-like character Brahms marks it *Allegro amabile*, meaning "lovably, amiably." The violin and piano share melodic lines in seamless dialogue, neither dominating the texture. The second movement intertwines a slow movement and scherzo, shifting between tender introspection and lively bursts of energy. The final movement carries a clear, affectionate spirit, closing the sonata with quiet joy rather than overt triumph.

This sonata showcases Brahms's gift for chamber lyricism: violin and piano act as true partners, weaving long lines and subtle inner voices into an atmosphere of balance, warmth, and intimacy.

Camille Saint-Saëns: Havanaise in E major, Op. 83

Composed in 1887 for the virtuoso violinist Rafael Díaz Albertini, Saint-Saëns's Havanaise is inspired by the sensuous rhythm of the Cuban habanera. Built on its distinctive dotted pattern, the piece combines elegance with virtuosic brilliance. Over the work's gently swaying foundation, the solo violin unfolds long, expressive lines interwoven with moments of technical sparkle, creating a vivid blend of charm, warmth and showmanship.