

**Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)**

**Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major, Hob. VIIb:2**

Composed around 1783 for Antonín Kraft, the principal cellist of the Esterházy Orchestra, Haydn's *Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major* represents the composer's mature Classical style—graceful, inventive, and full of warmth. Compared to his earlier C major concerto, this work is more expansive and lyrical, requiring not only technical brilliance but also refined musical sensitivity.

The opening *Allegro moderato* unfolds with noble elegance. The soloist enters with a radiant, singing tone, engaging in a graceful dialogue with the orchestra. The movement's lyrical themes and rich harmonic color reflect Haydn's deep understanding of the cello's expressive voice.

The *Adagio* serves as the emotional heart of the concerto. Here, the cello sings with intimate warmth, supported by delicate orchestral textures. The simplicity of the writing allows for deep expressive nuance and subtle phrasing.

The final *Allegro* bursts with vitality and joy. Filled with playful exchanges, rhythmic drive, and brilliant passagework, it showcases the soloist's agility and the composer's unmistakable wit.

Altogether, the *D major Concerto* embodies Haydn's genius for combining virtuosity with elegance—a timeless masterpiece that continues to define the cello repertoire today.