

[Viola Concerto](#) – [Béla Bartók](#)

Composed in 1945 during the final months of his life, Bartók's Viola Concerto stands as a deeply personal and poignant work. Left unfinished at his death, it was later completed by his student [Tibor Serly](#), who reconstructed the concerto from Bartók's sketches.

The work reflects a unique synthesis of folk-inspired idioms, rhythmic vitality, and introspective lyricism. The first movement unfolds with a sense of searching and restrained intensity, while the second movement (Adagio religioso) evokes a spiritual, almost transcendent atmosphere. The final movement brings renewed energy, incorporating dance-like rhythms and virtuosic passages, though an undercurrent of fragility remains. The concerto as a whole captures Bartók's late style—economical, expressive, and profoundly human.

[Cello Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012](#) (Prelude, transcribed for viola) – [Johann Sebastian Bach](#)

The Sixth Cello Suite is the most expansive and technically demanding of Bach's six suites, originally written for a five-string instrument. In transcription for viola, the Prelude presents both interpretive and technical challenges, requiring the performer to balance clarity, resonance, and structural awareness.

The movement unfolds in a grand, improvisatory style, characterized by sweeping arpeggios and a rich harmonic landscape. Unlike the more intimate preludes of the earlier suites, this work projects a sense of brilliance and architectural breadth. Even on the viola, the music retains its radiant character, inviting the performer to explore a wide range of colors and expressive depth.

[Phantasy for Viola and Piano, Op. 54](#) – [York Bowen](#)

York Bowen's Phantasy for Viola and Piano, Op. 54, is a cornerstone of the viola repertoire, showcasing both the lyrical and virtuosic potential of the instrument. Composed in the early 20th century, the work reflects Bowen's rich harmonic language and late-Romantic sensibility, often drawing comparisons to composers such as [Sergei Rachmaninoff](#).

Structured as a single continuous movement, the piece flows through contrasting sections, blending expressive melodies with brilliant technical passages. The viola sings with warmth and depth, while the piano provides a lush and supportive texture. Bowen's writing highlights the instrument's expressive range, from introspective lyricism to sweeping, passionate climaxes, making the work both a technical showcase and a deeply engaging musical narrative.