

SUN ZHENYAO

SENIOR RECITAL

with Pianist Ge Xiaozhe

10:00 | 5 MAY 2026

YST Concert Hall

Programme

Johannes Brahms

Violin Sonata No.2 in A Major, Op.100

Antonín Dvák

Sonatina in G Major, Op.100

Eugène Ysaÿe

Sonata No.6 in E Major, Op.27

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Violin Sonata No.2 in A Major, Op.100

This sonata was composed in 1886 during Brahms's stay in Thun, Switzerland, a period marked by warmth, stability, and lyrical inspiration. Among his three violin sonatas, this work is often regarded as the most intimate and song-like, characterized by its seamless melodic flow and understated expressiveness.

The three-movement structure emphasizes continuity rather than dramatic contrast. In the first movement, the violin and piano engage in an equal partnership, reflecting Brahms's chamber music ideals. Musical ideas unfold organically through motivic development, creating a continuous and fluid musical narrative.

The second movement alternates between lyrical introspection and subtle rhythmic vitality, while the final movement presents a graceful and relaxed character. Overall, the sonata conveys warmth, poetic refinement, and a sense of inward reflection typical of Brahms's mature style.

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

Sonatina in G Major, Op. 100

Composed in 1893 during the composer's stay in the United States, this sonatina reflects a unique blend of European tradition and American musical influences. Although originally intended for pedagogical purposes, the work demonstrates remarkable artistic depth and charm.

The first movement is clear and energetic, featuring well-defined thematic material and classical balance. The second movement (Larghetto) is especially notable for its lyrical simplicity and nostalgic character.

The final movements incorporate dance-like rhythms and folk-inspired gestures, giving the work a lively and engaging character. Despite its technical accessibility, the piece requires refined musical sensitivity, control of tone, and stylistic awareness.

Eugène Ysaÿe (1858–1931)

Sonata No.6 in E Major, Op.27

Ysaÿe's Six Sonatas for Solo Violin are among the most important works in the twentieth-century violin repertoire, inspired by Bach while incorporating modern harmonic language.

The Sixth Sonata, dedicated to Manuel Quiroga, is the most virtuosic of the set. Written in a single movement, it draws heavily on Spanish musical idioms, particularly the habanera rhythm, giving the work a distinctive and exotic character.

The piece demands exceptional technical control, including rapid passagework, double stops, and rhythmic precision. Beyond virtuosity, it presents a highly expressive and dramatic musical narrative, combining structural clarity with emotional intensity.