Programme note

Claude Debussy – Cello Sonata (1915)

Composed in his late career, Debussy's Cello Sonata embodies his mature impressionistic style blended with restrained Baroque structural clarity. The three-movement work features fluid harmonies, ethereal timbres, and intimate dialogue between cello and piano. Alternating between introspective lyricism, mysterious serenade-like passages, and passionate intensity, it creates a delicate, elusive sound world that prioritizes colour and atmosphere over traditional dramatic tension.

Robert Schumann – Fantasiestücke Op.73

Fantasiestücke Op.73 is a lyrical, expressive trio of character pieces for cello and piano. Unified by a recurring tender motif, the work shifts seamlessly from gentle melancholy to ardent warmth and brilliant vitality. Schumann's romantic language emphasizes singing cello lines, rich emotional depth, and intimate interplay with the piano, capturing spontaneous poetic feeling and passionate musical storytelling throughout the continuous three-movement structure.