

Press information:



**Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)**

Sonate "á la mémoire de Federico García Lorca  
1899-1936"

**Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)**

Suite populaire Espagnole d'après 'Siete  
Canciones populares Españolas'

**César Franck (1822-1890)**

Sonata A major "A Eugène Ysaÿe"

**Jules Massenet (1842-1912)**

"Méditation" from the opera "Thaïs"

**Duo Esterhazy**

*Svetlana Fomina, Violin*

*Hannes Sonntag, Piano*

Ever since its world premiere performance given by Eugène Ysaÿe and Léontine Bordes-Pène in December 1886, the only Violin Sonata of César Franck has been considered to be an almost unsurpassed masterpiece of its genre. Its compositional technique is just as admired as the passion of its expression. The Duo Esterhazy masters this with grand, symphonic sweep. The Sonata of Francis Poulenc has had a considerably more difficult time establishing itself, although it represents a worthy counterpart to the 55-year-old Franck Sonata in its artistic seriousness and tragic grandeur. Poulenc wrote it in memory of the Spanish poet García Lorca, who was murdered in 1936. This poet was himself a close friend and comrade -in-arms of Manuel de Falla. Both championed a specifically Spanish artistic idiom, as is perfectly realised in de Falla's 1914 "Canciones populares Españolas," performed here in an adaptation by the violinist Paul Kochanski as "Suite populaire Espagnole."

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