

Edvard Grieg: The Violin Sonatas



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- Sonata No. 2 in G major, Op. 13
- Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 8
- Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45

Franziska Pietsch, violin
Detlev Eisinger, piano

Franziska Pietsch and Detlev Eisinger make their audite debut with chamber works by Edvard Grieg. The three Violin Sonatas represent half his oeuvre in this field, epitomising central stages in his artistic development: his emancipation from the inspirational proximity to Schumann, references to Norwegian folk music, and his expansive use of themes and time. Grieg rated these three sonatas amongst his best works.

As an emerging talent in the GDR, Franziska Pietsch enjoyed special state support. After her father's escape to the West in 1984, two years of reprisals by the regime followed, intensively shaping Franziska Pietsch's understanding of music: deprived of any possibility of playing concerts or taking lessons, her chosen path towards hope – against desperation, refusal, fear and despotism – led inwards. Music became the only language in which she was able to express herself freely and which gave her the necessary strength to withstand external circumstances, continuing to hope for freedom. These were the origins of the intensity and artistic depth which characterise Franziska Pietsch's playing to the present day.



Franziska Pietsch and Detlev Eisinger make their audite debut with chamber works by Edvard Grieg. The three Violin Sonatas represent a major portion of his oeuvre in this field. Grieg composed at a time of national upheaval; his name stood for independence, but also for international diffusion of Norwegian music. The departure towards autonomy did not necessarily favour chamber music. Nonetheless, Grieg attached great importance to it in the styling of his musical language and sense of form. According to the composer, these three Violin Sonatas epitomise central stages in his artistic development: he called the first one "naïve, rich in models; the second the national; and the third the one with the wide horizon". Grieg rated these three sonatas amongst his best works.

Born in East Berlin, **Franziska Pietsch** gave her debut at the Komische Oper Berlin aged eleven, after which she regularly performed as a soloist alongside renowned orchestras of the GDR. In 1986 she was able to leave the country and continued her studies with Ulf Hoelscher (Karlsruhe), Jens Ellermann (Hannover) and Dorothy Delay (New York). Franziska Pietsch has won numerous competitions, including the Bach-Wettbewerb Leipzig, Concertino Praga and Concours Maria Canals in Barcelona.

Detlev Eisinger gave his first piano recital, as well as performances with orchestra, at the age of thirteen. He studied with Walter Krafft and later with Erik Then-Bergh, in 1986 he won a scholarship to attend the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. After graduating, Detlev Eisinger embarked on a busy career as a performer in Germany and abroad. He was invited to give concerts in Munich, Vienna, Graz, Salzburg and Klagenfurt and also in Menton, Paris, Montpellier, at the *Kissinger Sommer*, the *Richard-Strauss-Tage* in Garmisch and at the *Kodály Festival* in Hungary. He has also toured South Africa several times as well as Canada and the USA.

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