

LSO ST LUKES

BBC
RADIO 3

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Thursday 30 April 1–2.05pm
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

ANTOINE TAMESTIT AND FRIENDS

Antoine Tamestit & Bertrand Chamayou

Johannes Brahms Viola Sonata No 1 in F minor
Dmitri Shostakovich Viola Sonata

Antoine Tamestit viola
Bertrand Chamayou piano

Recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3

LSO

Coming Up in 2026/27

Prokofiev Sonatas

18 September & 5 November 2026
21 January 2027

A series exploring Prokofiev's sonatas for flute, cello and piano, performed by leading international artists.

Mahan Esfahani & Friends

26 November 2026
4 & 11 February 2027

Harpichordist Mahan Esfahani curates a three-concert journey from dynamic chamber partnerships to solo recital.

Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective

22 January, 11 March & 3 June 2027

From rediscovered voices to established masterpieces, Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective traces the piano quartet from Hérítte-Viardot and Saint-Georges to Fauré and Dvořák.

Save with Multibuy Discounts

£12 tickets when you book
3+ concerts
[iso.co.uk/bbcradio3](https://www.iso.co.uk/bbcradio3)

The Hawksmoor Space is open from one hour before the concert, selling hot and cold drinks. Please note, we can accept card payments only.

In accordance with the requirements of Islington Council, persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are strictly forbidden without formal consent from LSO St Luke's.

Please make sure that digital watch alarms and mobile phones are switched off during the performance.

Please recycle this programme after use.

Viola Sonata No 1 in F minor Op 120

Johannes Brahms

- 1 **Allegro appassionato**
- 2 **Andante un poco adagio**
- 3 **Allegretto grazioso**
- 4 **Vivace**

Johannes Brahms (1833–97) was one of the foremost German composers of the 19th century, as well as a talented pianist and noted conductor. After holding musical positions in Düsseldorf, Detmold and his home city of Hamburg (where he conducted a women's choir), he became Director of the Vienna Singakademie in 1863–64, and moved to the Austrian capital on a permanent basis in 1868. He became lifelong friends with Schumann but found himself at odds with Liszt and Wagner over creative differences.

Brahms made a particular contribution to the canon of Romantic orchestral music through his four symphonies and four concertos, also writing the highly distinctive, personal *German Requiem*, a large-scale choral work like no other. He also wrote numerous smaller-scale works of chamber, instrumental and vocal music. Brahms' style, although always supremely expressive, is typically characterised by a certain seriousness and studiousness, and he is noted for his inventive use of contrapuntal textures.

Brahms initially wrote his Viola Sonata in 1894 as one of two sonatas for clarinet and piano. He then adapted the two sonatas in arrangements for viola and piano and violin and piano, making some changes to the melodies and adapting the music to the particular expressive capabilities of string instruments. Previously, there was very little music available for viola and piano, and this Brahms Sonata became a central work in the instrument's repertoire. This is very late Brahms and the music is characterised by a rather turbulent passion.

The first movement, *Allegro appassionato*, contrasts gravitas with tenderness; the second, *Andante un poco adagio*, is gentle, sinuous and elegant. The *Allegretto grazioso* is a playful waltz that draws on Austrian peasant music and the concluding *Vivace* is upbeat and ultimately triumphant.

Viola Sonata Op 147

Dmitri Shostakovich

- 1 **Moderato**
- 2 **Allegretto**
- 3 **Adagio**

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–75) studied music as a child with his pianist mother and had written a symphony by the time he finished his studies at the Saint Petersburg Conservatoire. He had early success as an opera composer and was particularly noted in both his orchestral and stage works for combining music with political messages. At certain points in his career, Shostakovich found favour with the Soviet regime; at other times, however, his music was denounced. He was a prolific composer of symphonies, writing 15, but he also wrote numerous concertos, quartets, songs and cantatas, and latterly music for television and film. Shostakovich was influenced by late Romantic composers such as Mahler, but his musical voice is decidedly more modern, often characterised by ambiguous tonality, jagged contrasts and a sense of irony.

Shostakovich dedicated the Viola Sonata to the violist Fyodor Druzhinin, calling him by phone in advance to consult him on aspects of viola

technique. The first movement, marked Moderato, was described by Shostakovich as a novella. Shostakovich alternates simple pizzicato arpeggios that subvert our harmonic expectations with bowed sections that become progressively more intense, passionate and brooding. The jaunty second movement, Allegretto, borrows thematic material from the composer's unfinished wartime opera *The Gamblers*. The final Adagio, mellow in mood with occasional moments of discontentment, was intended as a tribute to Beethoven, and quotes from the first movement of the 'Moonlight' Sonata in the piano part.

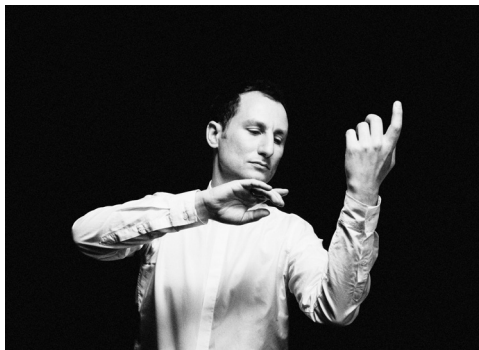
The Viola Sonata occupies a special place in Shostakovich's oeuvre, as the last piece that the composer wrote, just weeks before his death in 1975. Soon after, a group of friends gathered at his apartment to listen to an informal performance of the work; it received its public premiere at the small hall of the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra a couple of months later.

Programme Note Writer

Professor Alexandra Wilson is a Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford. Her research straddles the disciplines of Music and History. Professor Wilson received her PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London in 2002.

Antoine Tamestit

viola



© Julien Mignot

Antoine Tamestit opened his 25/26 season at the Tanglewood Music Festival in a recital with Leonidas Kavakos, Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax and followed this with return visits to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Further highlights included his debut with Filarmonica della Scala and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; a chamber residency with SWR Linie 2; and the Finnish premiere of John Williams' Viola Concerto with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra.

In recent seasons, Tamestit has performed with orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and NHK Symphony Orchestra, among others.

He performs regularly with major conductors including Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Daniel Harding, Paavo Järvi, Klaus Mäkelä, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Sir Antonio Pappano, Kirill Petrenko, Sir Simon Rattle, François-Xavier Roth, Christian Thielemann and Jaap van Zweden.

Tamestit has premiered major contemporary works by composers such as Jörg Widmann, Thierry Escaich, Bruno Mantovani, Gérard Tamestit and Olga Neuwirth. Recent premieres include Marko Nikodijević's *Psalmody* with the SWR Symphonieorchester and Francesco Filidei's Viola Concerto with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. A passionate advocate for new music, Tamestit believes that performing contemporary works is essential to keeping the viola repertoire vibrant and evolving – an artistic responsibility he embraces as both an interpreter and a collaborator.

Bertrand Chamayou

piano



© Marco Borggreve

Bertrand Chamayou is one of today's most strikingly brilliant pianists, recognised for his revelatory performances that are at once powerfully virtuosic, imaginative and breathtakingly beautiful. A leading interpreter of French music, his vast repertoire includes major bodies of work such as the complete piano works of Ravel, Liszt's Etudes and *Années de pèlerinage*, and Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*. Simultaneously, the French pianist possesses a deep passion for new music.

After performing the complete solo piano works of Ravel at major summer festivals (Festival Radio France in Montpellier, La Roque d'Anthéron, Festival de Musique de Menton), Chamayou opened his 25/26 season by appearing at the Lucerne Festival with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and Karina Canellakis in Unsuk Chin's Piano Concerto.

A highly regarded chamber musician, Chamayou's partners include Sol Gabetta, Barbara Hannigan, Vilde Frang, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Leif Ove Andsnes, the Quatuor Ebène and Antoine Tamestit. Deeply committed to new repertoire, he has also worked with Henri Dutilleux and György Kurtág and, more recently, with Thomas Adès, Bryce Dessner and Michaël Jarrell, who dedicated his latest piano concerto to him.

Born in Toulouse, Chamayou's musical talent was quickly recognised by pianist Jean-François Heisser, who later became his professor at the Paris Conservatoire. He completed his training with Maria Curcio in London. Chamayou is the Artistic Director of the Ravel Festival, a major international festival celebrating Maurice Ravel in the Basque Country, around Saint-Jean-de-Luz in France.

JUST ANNOUNCED

2026/27 at The Barbican

Mahler 2 and Fujikura

with Sir Antonio Pappano
Sunday 18 October 2026 7pm
Thursday 22 October 2026 7pm

Edmund Finnis and Bruckner

with Sir Antonio Pappano
and Sheku Kanneh-Mason
Sunday 25 October 2026 7pm

Tchaikovsky, Kendall and Liadov

with Sir Antonio Pappano
and Fleur Barron
Thursday 29 October 2026 7pm

Sibelius, Nørgård and Adès

with Thomas Adès
and Bertrand Chamayou
Thursday 5 November 2026 7pm

Debussy, Filidei and Prokofiev

with Sir Simon Rattle
and Antoine Tamestit
Thursday 15 April 2027 7pm

Explore the full season

[iso.co.uk/2627](https://www.iso.co.uk/2627)

Coming Up at LSO St Lukes

Simon Crawford-Phillips and Friends: Bach, Kurtág and Schubert

Friday 1 May 1pm

Johann Sebastian Bach arr György Kurtág

Gottes Zeit ist der allerbeste Zeit

Sonata in E-flat major

O Lamm Gottes unschuldig

Franz Schubert

Variations on an Original

Theme in A-flat major

Fantasia in F minor

Simon Crawford-Phillips piano Philip Moore piano

Relaxed Friday Lunchtime Concert: Orchestral Artistry Showcase

Friday 8 May 12.30pm

A short concert designed for learning disabled and neurodiverse audiences, and for anyone who benefits from a more flexible sensory or communication environment.

Benjamin Britten

Fanfare for St Edmundsbury

Gene Koshinski

Get It!

Grażyna Bacewicz

Duets on Folk Themes

Oscar Navarro

Sevilla from 'Juego de Ladrones'

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Aria from 'Bachianas Brasileiras No 6'

Holly Harrison

Swoop

Orchestral Artistry Musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

LSO St Luke's Open Morning

Saturday 9 May

Interactive Drama Experience: Jobs on the Docks with London Museum Docklands

10.30am, 11.15am & 12pm

Step into the bustling docks in an interactive drama experience designed especially for children under 5!

Interactive Music Workshops

10.30am & 11.30am

Get stuck into a music workshop designed especially for young people, run by amateur Natasha Zielazinski.

Come and Sing! Workshop with Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

11.45am

The inspiring Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir share their passion for collective singing in this short, inclusive workshop.

Family Trail

All Morning

Explore the building and learn more about our history by following this self-guided trail.

Free Performances

10.15am, 11am & 12pm

Enjoy chamber music by LSO Conservatoire Scholars and uplifting gospel music by the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir.

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