



# Brandeis University

Department of Music

*presents*

**Anne Liu, *violin***

Saturday, March 26th, 2022 at 2 p.m.

Slosberg Music Center

Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor, Op. 105

Robert Schumann

I. Mit leidenschaftlichem Ausdruck

(1810-1856)

II. Allegretto

III. Lebhaft

Jung-A Bang, *piano*

Violin Sonata

Claude Debussy

I. Allegro vivo

(1862-1918)

II. Intermède: Fantasque et léger

III. Finale: Très animé

Jung-A Bang, *piano*

## PROGRAM NOTES

**Robert Schumann** was a German composer, pianist, and influential critic born in 1810. While he excelled in both composition and piano, composition became his main priority after suffering a hand injury that limited his ability to play piano. He mainly composed for the piano up until 1840, after which he started composing orchestral and chamber works as well.

Schumann wrote his Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor, Op. 105 in 1851, and it is said that he was actually displeased with this work. It was premiered by his wife Clara Schumann on piano and Ferdinand David on violin in 1852. The piece is separated into three movements. The first movement's title, *Mit leidenschaftlichem Ausdruck*, can be translated as "with passionate expression". True to this descriptive title, the sonata's first movement is characterized by a strong melodic line, painted with tumultuous dynamics. The second movement, *Allegretto*, demonstrates multiple different colors. From the round warmth of the opening to the interjection of stronger, more pointed sections, this movement rarely settles for a while in one mood. The final movement, *Lebhaft* ("Lively"), closes out the sonata with a simmering and pointed melodic line that evolves into warmer colors, before concluding with a fiery return to the beginning of the movement.

**Claude Debussy** was a French composer born in 1862. He is sometimes referred to as the first Impressionist composer, although he intensely rejected that title. He composed a wide variety of works, from vocal music to orchestral works. Many of his compositions are evocative of nature and art.

Debussy's Violin Sonata was the last thing he wrote before he died. He planned to write six sonatas for various instruments, but this was the third and final one he was able to finish. At this point in his life, he was battling late-stage cancer along with the difficulties of living through World War I. To quote Debussy himself, he said "I only wrote this sonata to be rid of the thing, spurred on by my dear publisher. This sonata will be interesting from a documentary point of view and as an example of what may be produced by a sick man in time of war".

Debussy's violin sonata contains many characters, which are scattered throughout the entire piece. The first movement, *Allegro vivo*, begins like a dream — the piano hums briefly to set the atmosphere, and the violin enters with a floating melodic line. This evolves into many different colors and atmospheres throughout the movement. The second movement introduces a recurring theme in pointy and bouncing sixteenth notes, interjected by other warmer themes. The third and final movement briefly revisits the melody from the first movement before diving into more lively and brilliant themes. Dreaminess returns in certain themes of this movement, before closing out the sonata with glittering energy.