



Isabelle Faust, *violin* & Alexander Melnikov, *piano*

PROGRAM

BEETHOVEN Sonata in A minor, Op. 23
 Sonata in F Major, Op. 24, "Spring"
INTERMISSION
 Sonata in G Major, Op. 96

PRESENTING SPONSOR

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ISABELLE FAUST, VIOLIN

Isabelle Faust captivates her listeners through insightful and faithful interpretations based on a thorough knowledge of the historical context of the works as well as her attention to current scholarship. Appearing with the world's leading orchestras, she is among the most sought-after violinists in the world, with a wide-ranging repertoire ranging from J.S. Bach to contemporary composers. Ever keen to explore new musical horizons, she is equally at home as a chamber musician and with ensembles.

In recent years, Faust had developed a close relationship with the late Claudio Abbado, performing and recording under his baton and receiving a Gramophone Award for their recording of Beethoven and Berg violin concertos. She has recorded many discs for harmonia mundi with her recital partner Alexander Melnikov, including their latest album of Brahms sonatas for violin and piano. Her second installment of the Schumann Trilogy, recorded with Alexander Melnikov, Jean-Guihen Queyras, the Freiburger Barockorchester and Pablo Heras-Casado and featuring the Piano Concerto and Piano Trio No. 2, Op. 63, was released in 2015. The third and final installment, with the Cello Concerto and Piano Trio No. 1, was released in 2016.

ALEXANDER MELNIKOV, PIANO

A graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, Alexander Melnikov's most formative musical moments include his early encounter with the great Russian pianist Sviatoslav Richter, who thereafter invited him regularly to festivals in Russia and France. Known for his often unusual musical and programmatic decisions, Melnikov discovered a career-long interest in historically informed performance practice at a young age, going on to perform with distinguished period ensembles. As a soloist, he has appeared with major orchestras under conductors including Charles Dutoit, Paavo Järvi and Valery Gergiev. Intensive chamber music collaborations also form an essential part of his work.

Melnikov's association with the harmonia mundi label arose through his recital partner Isabelle Faust. Their Grammy-nominated recording of the complete Beethoven sonatas for violin and piano won a Gramophone Award and Germany's ECHO Klassik Prize, becoming a touchstone recording for these works. His recording of Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues received a *BBC Music Magazine* Award and was named by *BBC Music Magazine* one of the 50 Greatest Recordings of All Time.