

MUSICAL PRAYER

VICTORIA PARKER

violin

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*Partita No. 2 in D Minor*, BWV 1004

Allemanda

Corrente

Sarabanda

Giga

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach composed his three Sonatas and three Partitas for solo violin between 1703 and 1720 in Weimar and Cöthen. They were not widely known until the German violinist Joseph Joachim began performing them in the 1870s. The six Bach works are a timeless achievement in their use of the violin's polyphonic potential (through chordal writing and implied harmonies in single-line passages), their expression of a huge gamut of emotions and characters, both exalted and earthy, and as a unified body of music linked by aspects of form and possible religious subtext. The Partita No. 2 consists of four dance movements, followed by a monumental Chaconne (not heard tonight). This particular partita was written following the sudden death and burial of Bach's wife Maria Barbara while he was away traveling. Its opening four movements, with their familiar dance forms, can be interpreted as looking back with mournful intensity and grief at an energetic life cruelly cut short.

*Polish Caprice*

Grażyna Bacewicz  
(1909–1969)

Grażyna Bacewicz was one of the most prominent and accomplished Polish composers of the 20th century. As a young girl, she studied violin and piano in her native city of Łódź, later studying at the Warsaw Conservatory and *Ecole normale* in Paris. She returned to Warsaw in the mid-1930s to begin her professional career as a soloist, orchestral musician, and composer; during World War II, she organized and performed in many secret underground concerts. After the war she joined the faculty of the State Conservatory of Music in Łódź; gradually she focused nearly exclusively on her work as a composer. Herself a virtuoso violinist, many of her compositions are for the violin, including seven concertos, numerous chamber music and orchestral works, as well as incidental music for the stage, films, and radio broadcasts. The *Polish Caprice* performed tonight was written in 1948.

*Sonata No. 2*  
Malinconia  
Les Furies

Eugène Ysaÿe  
1858–1931

Eugène Ysaÿe was a Belgian violin virtuoso, composer, and conductor. After his early studies with his father, he became a student of the legendary Henri Vieuxtemps and his assistant Henryk Wieniawski. He began his professional career as the concertmaster of the nascent Berlin Philharmonic, but soon focused on solo opportunities. His appointment to the the Brussels Conservatory began a long and distinguished career as one of the finest violin teachers in the world. He wrote a considerable amount of music for solo violin, orchestra, and chamber music ensembles. The six sonatas for solo violin are legendary for the combination of refined music coupled with the most extreme technical challenges.



Photo credit: Rosemary Dai Ross

Born into a musical household, **VICTORIA PARKER** grew up performing and touring with her family quintet. Through this experience, she developed a deep connection to chamber music which remains an integral part of her musical life. She has been a featured soloist with many orchestras, including One World Symphony, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Starry Night Chamber Orchestra, Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra, North Corner Chamber Orchestra, and Northwest Sinfonia, with whom she recorded a violin concerto composed for her by Roupén Shakarian. She plays frequently with the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera and can be heard on many popular albums and motion picture soundtracks. Victoria is a founding member and leader of North Corner Chamber Orchestra (NOCCO), an uncondacted ensemble where collaboration is at the heart of their musical interpretations. Her love for collaboration and interest in interdisciplinary arts shapes many of the projects in which she is involved. Parker studied at Western Michigan University and Manhattan School of Music.

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