As with the symphony and the string quartet, JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897) waited until a surprisingly late date to compose his first violin-and-piano sonata: his Opus 78 in G major, in the summer of 1879, immediately after completing his Violin Concerto. Seven years later he completed his Violin Sonata No. 2 in A, Op. 100, during the enormously productive summer in 1886, immediately thereafter sketching the third, perhaps meant as a companion piece to Opus 100. Brahms put the sketch aside, however, and it was not until 1888 that he finished the Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Opus 108. Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax frequently perform this work in recital, with Mr. Ma playing the string part an octave lower than it was originally. The consoling, rich-textured slow movement performed here consists of a single extended melody.