FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY (1809-1847) wrote eight volumes—forty-eight pieces in all—of the short, lyrical piano pieces known as *Lieder ohne Worte*, or *Songs Without Words*, over the course of his career, but *Song Without Words* for cello and piano, Op. 109, is a standalone piece not intended to be part of the series. Mendelssohn wrote the piece in 1845 for the French cellist Lisa Cristiani, having accompanied her as pianist in a performance in Leipzig. Cristiani, who made her public debut in February of that year, was one of the first women to have a professional career as a cellist. (Her 1700 Stradivarius cello with her name carved into its side is now in the collection of the Museo del Violino in Stradivarius’s hometown of Cremona, Italy.) Mendelssohn’s lyrical work in D major was not published during Mendelssohn’s lifetime. The designation “Lied ohne Worte” is not his, but certainly fits the mood of this lovely five-minute piece, which erupts into romantic passion between more sedate outer passages.