Known from his youth as a formidable pianist, SERGEI PROKOFIEV (1891-1953) wrote five concertos for his own instrument as well as a large body of solo works, including nine sonatas. Many a listener has been introduced to classical music via his perennially delightful introduction to orchestral instruments, *Peter and the Wolf*, and many of his symphonies, operas including *War and Peace*, and ballets including *Romeo and Juliet*, are major repertoire pieces. Prokofiev also added significant works to the literature for violin with two concertos with orchestra, two sonatas for violin and piano, and a sonata for two violins, along with his *Sonata in D for solo violin*.

Actually, Prokofiev wrote the sonata to succeed as either a solo piece or as a piece for a group of violinists to play in unison. Composed in 1947, it was commissioned by the Soviet Union’s Commission for Arts Affairs for the purpose of educating young violinists. Although not as virtuosic as the composer’s other violin music, the ten-minute, three-movement Sonata is by no means a beginner’s work. Prokofiev makes sure to require techniques native to the violin, such as arpeggios that cross all four strings, rapid alternations of the bow between strings, sharp double-stop chords. The first and last movements of the sonata are quick and sprightly; the “sweet Andante” second movement spins variations from the simple, lyrical melody stated at the beginning. The sonata wasn’t performed until some twelve years later—six years after the composer’s death.