Three of these works were premiered by Gil Shaham. American composer/conductor/pianist SCOTT WHEELER’s *Isolation Rag* is the most recent, a timely reaction to the self-quarantining and social distancing brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Wheeler writes,

The last concert I attended before the lockdown was in March 2020 in Los Alamos, where Gil and pianist Akira Eguchi played a wonderful recital including my sonata *The Singing Turk*. Gil and Akira played an encore for that recital—William Bolcom’s *Graceful Ghost Rag*. Thinking of that wonderful piece and Gil’s beautiful reading of it, I wrote my *Isolation Rag* for unaccompanied violin. It includes a brief quote from the first movement of the Mendelssohn concerto, then a snippet of the last movement of that concerto, followed by a bit of the last movement of the Brahms concerto. Gil reacted that it gave the piece the feeling that the soloist was at home thinking of and missing his orchestra.

The piece was written as a gift and was presented as a surprise in April 2020. Gil then surprised me by quickly premiering it on the Dresden Music Festival in their online program *Music Never Sleeps*, in May.

The Boston-based Scott Wheeler (b.1952) was a Fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center and is an alumnus of the New England Conservatory and Brandeis University. He composes for a variety of contexts but has concentrated on opera and other dramatic forms. Commissions include those from the Metropolitan Opera, National Opera, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, and the Koussevitzky and Marilyn Horne foundations, among many others, and he was a co-founder of Boston’s Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble.