



Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin

by Johann Sebastian Bach

**Performed by
Michael Barenboim**

At 7:00 p.m. April 20th and April 22nd, 2007

Quaker Meeting House - Ramallah

The **Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin** (BWV 1001–1006) is a set of six works composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. It consists of three sonatas in four movements and three partitas composed of dance-based movements. The complete set was first published in 1843 by Ferdinand David. Portions were first recorded by Joseph Joachim in 1903, and the first complete set was recorded by a young Yehudi Menuhin in the mid-30s. Today, the *Sei Solo – a violino senza Basso accompagnato*, as Bach titled it, is an integral part of the violin repertoire, and is recorded and performed frequently.

Bach composed his six **Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin** in 1720, while employed at Köthen. (The actual manuscript was nearly destroyed but someone saved it from being used as butcher paper). There, Bach composed more secular/chamber music than sacred or choral music; the Brandenburg Concertos, Double Concerto, and Cello Suites were all composed about this time. The Sonatas each consist of four movements, in a slow-fast-slow-fast tempi format, with the second movement as a fugue. The Partitas are collections of dances, making use of the baroque format of allemande, courante, sarabande, and gigue, but none following it to the letter: the first substitutes a bourrée for the gigue; the second includes a chaconne as a fifth movement; and the third's resemblance to the format is only in its final gigue.

The original performer of Bach's six sonatas and partitas is unknown. J.G. Pisendel and J.B. Volumier have been suggested, both being talented violinists at the Dresden court, as has Joseph Spiess, leader of the orchestra at Köthen, where Bach composed the works. However, some contend that it may have been Bach himself who gave the first performance, pointing to his skills as a violinist. (His father, Johann Ambrosius Bach, was a violinist, and according to his son Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, "in his youth, and until the approach of old age, he played the violin cleanly and powerfully".

Michael Barenboim was born in Paris and started studying violin at the age of seven in Berlin where his teachers were Abraham Jaffe and Axel Wilczok. He participated in Itzhak Perlman's Hampton Music Program and, since 2000, has been a member of Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra with whom he has toured throughout Europe and in the Middle East. In 2003, he was appointed the Orchestra's concertmaster. He participated in the 2007 Easter tour of the Gustav Mahler Jugend Orchester as assistant concertmaster under Claudio Abbado. He is a regular guest at chamber music venues around the world, performing Schubert's Trout Quintet, Brahms' Sextet and Mendelssohn's Octet as well as the sonatas of Brahms, Beethoven and Schumann amongst other works. Michael Barenboim studied philosophy at the Sorbonne University in Paris and now studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Rostock with Axel Wilczok.

The Barenboim-Said Foundation
Concert Programme
Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin
by Johann Sebastian Bach
Performed by Michael Barenboim

At the Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse
(on Main Street in Ramallah, next to the Natche Building and across from Rukab)

April 20 the th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
and
April 22nd, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Programme – Day one

April 20, 2007

- Bach Sonata No 1 in G-minor (BWV 1001)
 - Adagio
 - Fuga (Allegro)
 - Siciliana
 - Presto
- Bach Partita No 1 in B-minor (BWV 1002)
 - Allemanda
 - double
 - Corrente
 - double
 - Sarabande
 - double
 - Tempo di Borea
 - double
- Intermission-
- Bach Sonata No 3 in C-major (BWV 1005)
 - Adagio
 - Fuga
 - Largo
 - Allegro assai

Programme – Day two

April 22, 2007

- Bach Partita No 3 in E-major (BWV 1006)
 - Preludio
 - Loure
 - Gavotte en Rondeau
 - Menuet I
 - Menuett II
 - Bourée
 - Gigue
- Bach Sonata No 2 in A-minor (BWV 1003)
 - Grave
 - Fuga
 - Andante
 - Allegro
- Intermission-
- Bach Partita No 2 in D-minor (BWV 1004)
 - Allemanda
 - Corrente
 - Sarabanda
 - Giga
 - Ciaccona