

**Loi Zi Xian**

**Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, Mvmt. 3**

Although Mendelssohn was at the height of his fame as a renowned musician, shaping musical tastes throughout Europe with his unique style, the fact that this concerto was soon to be one of the most recognised pieces in solo music repertoire did not do much to reduce his anxiety about perfecting this work. Mendelssohn had intended to write a concerto for violinist Ferdinand David, who was a close acquaintance of his since his youth and concertmaster of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, since 1883. However, the score was only completed in 1844, after lengthy correspondence with Ferdinand David to work on the different technical aspects involved in the piece and to build an equilibrium between the violin virtuoso and the orchestra.

The third movement links directly with the lyrical Andante via a wistful 14-bar string transition - a rapid change in mood and tempo reminds one of a ebb-and-flow reprise of the tragic theme that spins throughout the concerto. Quick fanfares lead into the movement, shedding light on Mendelssohn's signature scherzo style. This movement starts with a vibrant flash of colour; the swinging gait of the main theme allows for broad melodies. Quick, flowering passages are played with great dexterity. Lively and fast-paced, with few to little reprises for the soloist, the movement displays technical brilliance, ever typical of the Romantic Period, aligning with the ideals of a hero and virtuosity. A concerto based on the theme of dark to light, the witty, light-hearted third movement closes this popular work with a virtuosic sense of exhilaration and nimbleness.