

## **Tartini - Violin Sonata in G minor, 3rd and 4th movements (Finale)**

“One night I dreamt that I had made a pact with the Devil; he was my servant and anticipated my every wish”. These were the very words Tartini told a scientist, J.J. Lalande, about his encounter with Satan.

Tartini, a famed violinist in the Classical period, was believed to have written this sonata after his dream, where the devil played something so fiendishly difficult, divine and evocative that Tartini woke up frenetically to reproduce what he heard, hence giving rise to the popular name of this sonata - The Devil's Trill Sonata. Although this sonata was claimed to have fallen short of what was heard in the dream, Tartini still regards this as his best work.

The Finale performed today is actually two movements connected together - it opens with the unhurried, fluid and lyrical *Grave* theme, which is followed by the faster, more energetic *Allegro assai* passages that feature techniques such as intricate trills, fast string crossing and double-stopping. These themes alternate throughout the Finale, and this disjointment is believed to represent the rambling, incoherent nature of Tartini's dream. The piece ultimately culminates in a long *cadenza* composed by virtuoso violinist Fritz Kreisler and ends with the imposing *Grave* theme.