



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Monday, March 2, 2026 • 7:00 PM

AIRI ITO

Student Recital

Murray and Michele Allen Recital Hall
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

Monday, March 2, 2026 • 7:00 PM

Allen Recital Hall

AIRI ITO, VIOLIN

Student Recital

WANG KE, PIANO

PROGRAM

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Violin Sonata in A major D 574 “Grand Duo” (1817)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Scherzo, presto
- III. Andantino
- IV. Allegro vivace

William Walton (1902–1983)

Violin Concerto (1939)

- I. Andante tranquillo

- Intermission -

Eugène Ysaÿe (1858–1931)

Violin Sonata No. 2 (1923)

- I. Obsession
- II. Malinconia
- III. Danse des Ombres
- IV. Les furies

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

Violin Sonata No. 2, M.77 (1927)

- I. Allegretto
 - II. Blues, Moderato
 - III. Perpetuum mobile, Allegro
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Airi Ito is from the studio of I-Hao Lee.

As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.

PROGRAM NOTES

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

Violin Sonata in A major D 574 “Grand Duo” (1817)

Duration: 20 minutes

Composed in 1817 when Schubert was only 20 years old, this sonata reflects a time in his life of creativity and youth. One year prior when he began composing for solo violin, he composed three sonatinas.

This sonata demonstrates a maturation in his composition in comparison to his sonatinas, featuring a balance of the contrasting influences of Beethoven and Rossini with his own distinct lyricism. It has become popular for its lyrical beauty and showcases the charm and intimacy characteristic of Schubert’s chamber music. This piece reminds me of all the things and people I am grateful for. Listening to this piece while looking up at the blue sky has brought me much warmth and joy during the unforgiving Chicago winter.

William Walton (1902–1983)

Violin Concerto (1939))

Duration: 10 minutes

In 1936, violinist Jascha Heifetz commissioned a violin concerto from Walton over lunch for the price of £300. Walton’s Viola Concerto was already a great success, and Heifetz was keen on having a work written for him. Walton was in panic that his composition would be too simple for Heifetz, but ultimately reached satisfaction when he had “exhausted the possibilities of what one could do on a violin.” He thought of this concerto as an intimate piece, comparing it to the Elgar Violin Concerto in a similar key. It was rumored that Walton was blissfully in love during the time of composition, and both the Viola Concerto and Violin Concerto were seen as declarations of his love for his partner, Alice. He worked on this concerto throughout the late 1930s until it was premiered in 1939 by Heifetz and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Eugène Ysaÿe (1858–1931)

Violin Sonata No. 2 (1923)

Duration: 13 minutes

Ysaÿe was a world-renowned Belgian composer and conductor, and one of the greatest violinists of his time. He studied with prestigious violinists/composers such as Henri Vieuxtemps and Henryk Wieniawski. Ysaÿe had an extensive performing career and was known for his talent for artistic improvisation and unique playing style. At the age of 65, he wrote the Six Sonatas for Solo Violin, each dedicated to six different talented young violinists at that time. This second sonata was written for French violinist Jacques Thibaud. The title ‘Obsession’

may refer to Ysaÿe's own obsession over the music he referenced in the sonata, from the Prelude from Bach's E major Partita and the recurring Dies Irae (Latin hymn) melody throughout the entire piece.

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

Violin Sonata No. 2, M.77 (1927)

Duration: 16 minutes

Ravel's Second Violin Sonata was premiered in 1927 by violinist George Enescu with the composer himself on the piano, and ended up being Ravel's only work premiered during his lifetime. Ravel likely started the composition of this sonata as early as 1922, but his musical output was slow during this time due to his struggles with depression. The centerpiece of the sonata is the American style of Blues music. Although the sonata was written before Ravel had ever traveled to the U.S., the Jazz music commonly played in Parisian cafes inspired him to express his own "Blues."

Notes by Airi Ito