

William Shield's early career as a violinist and violist took him to the centre of musical life in London where he became principal violinist of the Covent Garden theatre orchestra in 1773. The publication of the *Violin Duets* later that decade marked the launch of Shield's success as a hugely popular composer. Each set of duets is neatly engineered, with many attractive details in the Italianate spirit of *Op. 1*. The *Op. 2* set is more compact, developing arioso vocal styles, clever changes of texture, and folk elements such as hurdy-gurdy-like figurations.



William
SHIELD
(1748–1829)

 Adelaide
University

Violin Duets, Opp. 1 and 2 (1778–79)

1–12 Violin Duets, Op. 1 (pub. 1778) 46:28

13–24 Violin Duets, Op. 2 (pub. c. 1779) 30:44

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

The Dorrit Ensemble

Elizabeth Layton, Elizabeth Sellars, Violin

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

Recorded: 20 **1–6** and 21 **7–24** November 2022 at Elder Hall, University of Adelaide, Australia

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Playing Time
77:48



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