The 20th century saw an abundance of notable Russian cellists inspiring an extensive repertoire by Soviet composers. In the cello sonatas by Shostakovich and Prokofiev, both composers explore the rich and emotive timbre of the instrument with expressive subtleties and bittersweet emotions, alongside their typical touches of wit and irony. Internationally acclaimed pianist Evgeny Kissin has recently returned to composing, and his *Cello Sonata* is akin to a ballad in its restraint and introspection.

RUSSIAN BALLADS

Sergey Prokofiev (1891–1953):	
Ballade in C minor, Op. 15 (1912)	12:03
Dmitry Shostakovich (1906–1975):	
Cello Sonata in D minor, Op. 40 (1934)	28:30
2 I. Allegro non troppo	12:33
	3:09
4 III. Largo	8:27
5 IV. Allegro	4:14
© Evgeny Kissin (b. 1971):	
Cello Sonata, Op. 2 (2016)*	9:50
Sergey Prokofiev: Cello Sonata, Op. 119 (1949)	23:40
7 I. Andante grave	11:00
8 II. Moderato	4:45
9 III. Allegro, ma non troppo	7:54
Magio, Op. 97bis (from <i>Cinderella</i> , <i>Op.</i> 87) (1944)	4:37

*WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Gabriel Schwabe, Cello • Roland Pöntinen, Piano

○ radio**bremen** •

A co-production with Radio Bremen

Recorded: 14–16 April 2021 at the Sendesaal Bremen, Germany • Producer: Wilfried Schäper (Radio Bremen)
Engineer: Siegbert Ernst • Producer and editor: Renate Wolter-Seevers

Cover: Herbstwald (1905) by Julius von Klever (1850–1924)

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Playing Time
78:58

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