




# PROKOFIEV

## Sonata for Solo Cello

### Gabriel Schwabe



 radiobremen<sup>1</sup>

## **Sergey Prokofiev (1891–1953)**

### **Sonata for Solo Cello, Op. 134**

The *Sonata for Solo Cello* proved to be the very last piece Prokofiev began in the latter half of 1952 and which he did not live to finish, having only sketched the first of its intended four movements. A lyrically elegiac first theme, then a second theme marked *Giovale* ('joyful') unfold over the course of music reflecting the contemplative and often fatalistic mood the composer was doubtless in at this time. It was given its first performance by Natalia Gutman in Moscow on 29 February 1972 in a version elaborated by musicologist Vladimir Blok, but on this recording Gabriel Schwabe plays this piece essentially as Prokofiev left it.

**Richard Whitehouse**



## Gabriel Schwabe



Gabriel Schwabe has established himself among the leading cellists of his generation. He is a laureate of numerous national and international competitions, including the Grand Prix Emanuel Feuermann and the Concours Rostropovich in Paris. In 2009 he won the prestigious Pierre Fournier Award in London. As a soloist, he has worked with orchestras such as the Philharmonia Orchestra, ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, NDR Radiophilharmonie, Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Malmö and Norrköping Symphony Orchestras and the Royal Northern Sinfonia with conductors including Marek Janowski, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, Dennis Russell Davies, Cornelius Meister, Marc Soustrot, Lars Vogt and Michael Sanderling. In 2010 Schwabe gave his recital debut at Wigmore Hall in London. He is a regular guest at festivals such as the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival, Kronberg Academy Festival and the Amsterdam Biennale, and has performed with artists including Isabelle Faust, Christian Tetzlaff, Lars Vogt, Kirill Gerstein and Jonathan Gilad. Schwabe was born to German-Spanish parents in Berlin. He studied with Catalin Ilea in Berlin and Frans Helmerson at the Kronberg Academy and received further guidance from János Starker, Gary Hoffmann and Gidon Kremer. He is a professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Cologne and the Conservatorium Maastricht and plays an instrument by Giuseppe Guarneri (Cremona, 1695).

[www.gabriel schwabe.com](http://www.gabriel schwabe.com)

Left incomplete at the composer's death, the *Sonata for Solo Cello* proved to be the last piece that Prokofiev began, in 1952. The *Sonata* was premiered in Moscow by Natalia Gutman in 1972, in a version elaborated by musicologist Vladimir Blok, but on this recording Gabriel Schwabe plays the piece essentially as Prokofiev left it. This digital single complements Schwabe's album *Russian Ballads*, accompanied by pianist Roland Pöntinen (8.574377).

Sergey  
**PROKOFIEV**  
(1891–1953)

**Sonata for Solo Cello in C sharp minor, Op. 134 (1952)**

**1 I. Andante**

**8:11**

**Gabriel Schwabe, Cello**



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