



DOUBLE

Timothy Chooi • Nikki Chooi

ORC100484

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Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Five Pieces for Two Violins and Piano (arr. Lev Atovmyan)

1	I	Prelude	2.05
2	II	Gavotte	1.30
3	III	Elegy	2.31
4	IV	Waltz	1.44
5	V	Polka	1.32

Moritz Moszkowski (1854-1925)

Suite for Two Violins and Piano, Op. 71

6	I	Allegro energico	5.18
7	II	Allegro moderato	4.31
8	III	Lento assai	3.27
9	IV	Molto vivace	4.58

Jean-Marie Leclair (1697-1764)

Sonata for Two Violins in E minor, Op. 3 No. 5

10	I	Allegro ma poco	4.52
11	II	Gavotte; Andante grazioso	3.53
12	III	Presto	3.35

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Sonata for Two Violins in C major, Op. 56

13	I	Andante cantabile	2.41
14	II	Allegro	2.52
15	III	Commodo (quasi allegretto)	3.38
16	IV	Allegro con brio	5.25

Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)

17	Navarra for Two Violins and Piano, Op. 33	6.39
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Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

18	Humoresque (arr. Sheridan Seyfried)	3.43
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Total time

65.03

Timothy Chooi, *violin*

Nikki Chooi, *violin*

Eunice Kim, *piano*



We've spent our lives side by side, sometimes in unison, sometimes carving our own paths, but always connected by the same roots: music and family. This album is a reflection of that journey. Coming together as brothers and as artists, we wanted to create something that feels honest to who we are, both individually and together.

In these performances, you'll hear not just two violins, but a lifetime of shared experiences from early beginnings, years of growth, and a deep, unspoken understanding that only family can bring. For us, this project is more than a collaboration; it's a reunion, a conversation, and a celebration of where we come from.

We dedicate this album to our parents, whose unwavering love, sacrifice, and support made this journey possible from the very beginning.

We're grateful to share this with you.



Double celebrates the unique artistry and musical bond of violinists Nikki Chooi and Timothy Chooi. Spanning more than two centuries of repertoire, the album explores the many possibilities of the violin duo: intimate conversation, spirited rivalry, lyrical reflection, and dazzling virtuosity. From the elegance of the Baroque era to the rhythmic brilliance of the twentieth century, each work reveals a different facet of the brothers' musical partnership.

Dmitri Shostakovich's *Five Pieces for Two Violins and Piano*, arranged by Lev Atovmyan, opens the program with wit, nostalgia, and understated charm. Adapted from the composer's film scores and incidental music, these miniatures reveal a lighter side of Shostakovich's musical personality. The stately *Prelude* and graceful *Gavotte* evoke an imagined past, while the poignant *Elegy* offers moments of quiet introspection. In contrast, the *Waltz* and *Polka* sparkle with theatrical flair and sly humor, highlighting the character and charm of this set of pieces.

Moritz Moszkowski's *Suite for Two Violins and Piano*, Op. 71 embodies the elegance and brilliance of the late Romantic salon tradition. A composer celebrated for his melodic invention and pianistic sophistication, Moszkowski treats the two violins as equal partners in a richly textured musical dialogue. The energetic opening movement brims with vitality, while the graceful *Allegro moderato* evokes poise and refinement. A warmly expressive *Lento* provides lyrical contrast before the dazzling *Finale* races to an exuberant conclusion.

The album then turns to the Baroque with Jean-Marie Leclair's *Sonata for Two Violins in E minor*, Op. 3 No. 5. Often considered the founder of the French violin school, Leclair fused Italian virtuosity with French elegance and clarity. Written without continuo accompaniment, the sonata showcases the expressive possibilities of two intertwined violin lines. Its opening movement, *Allegro ma poco*, unfolds with poised lyricism and contrapuntal finesse, the elegant *Gavotte* reflects the courtly dance traditions of eighteenth-century France, and the concluding *Presto* bursts forth with brilliant interplay and sparkling momentum.

At the center of the program stands Sergei Prokofiev's *Sonata for Two Violins in C major, Op. 56*, one of the twentieth century's landmark works for the medium. Composed in 1932, the sonata explores the remarkable variety of color and texture possible with only two instruments. The *Andante cantabile* opens with poised lyricism and understated expressivity. In the *Allegro*, Prokofiev's unmistakable voice emerges through sharp rhythms, buoyant energy, and driving intensity. The *Commodo (quasi allegretto)* provides a moment of repose, before the *Allegro con brio* brings the work to a thrilling conclusion through brilliant contrapuntal interplay and irrepressible momentum.

Pablo de Sarasate's *Navarra, Op. 33* brings fiery Spanish flair and breathtaking virtuosity to the album. Inspired by the dances and colors of northern Spain, the work flows with rapid exchanges, brilliant harmonics, left-hand pizzicato, and exhilarating rhythmic interplay. Sarasate transforms the two violins into dazzling partners, balancing technical brilliance with irresistible warmth and exuberance.

The album concludes with Antonín Dvořák's beloved *Humoresque*, arranged for two violins by Sheridan Seyfried. One of the composer's most recognizable melodies, the work offers a moment of warmth and lyricism after the virtuosic brilliance of the preceding pieces. In this intimate arrangement, the two violins share and intertwine the famous theme in graceful dialogue, bringing the album to a heartfelt and elegant close.

In *Double*, Nikki and Timothy Chooi bring their distinctive voices into conversation across styles, eras, and traditions. The result is a program that highlights not only the versatility and richness of the violin duo repertoire, but also the deep musical kinship shared by two artists and brothers performing side by side.

Timothy Chooi and Nikki Chooi

Brothers Nikki Chooi and Timothy Chooi are internationally acclaimed violinists celebrated for their dynamic performances, artistic versatility, and commitment to connecting audiences through music. They have performed throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and South America. Beyond the concert stage, the Chooi brothers are deeply committed to education, outreach, and expanding access to classical music through performances and workshops in rural and underserved communities in partnership with organizations including Jeunesses Musicales Canada and Prairie Debut. Passionate advocates for contemporary music, they have commissioned and premiered works by composers including Marc-André Hamelin, David Braid, Sheridan Seyfried, Michael Osterle, and Daniel Temkin, while also creating their own arrangements and collaborative concert works that blend classical tradition with contemporary influences.

Nikki Chooi

Praised for his powerful and poetic performances, internationally acclaimed violinist Nikki Chooi is one of the most charismatic and versatile artists of his generation. A laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition and the International Tchaikovsky Competition, he is also a First Prize winner of the Michael Hill International Violin Competition, the Klein International String Competition, and the Montreal Symphony Manulife Competition. Concertmaster of the Grammy Award-winning Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, Nikki has served as Concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and as guest concertmaster with the Boston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and Sydney Symphony. As a soloist, he performs internationally, with appearances at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and with orchestras including the Montreal Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and Auckland Philharmonia. His festival appearances span the Marlboro Festival, Mainly Mozart, Kammermusik Utrecht, Dresden Musikfestspiele and he has



shared the stage with artists including Yo-Yo Ma and JoAnn Falletta. Dedicated to nurturing the next generation of musicians, Nikki has presented classes at the Curtis Institute of Music, San Francisco Conservatory, Morningside Music Bridge Programme, and Orchestra of the Americas Academy.

Timothy Chooi

Internationally acclaimed violinist Timothy Chooi is celebrated for his passionate interpretations, emotional depth, and dynamic stage presence. Praised for “dazzling the audience with a combination of flawless technique and heartfelt expression,” he has appeared with leading orchestras and at major venues worldwide. First Prize winner of the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover, Second Prize laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition, and recipient of the Yves Paternot Prize at the Verbier Festival, Timothy has been mentored by luminaries including Pinchas Zukerman and Anne-Sophie Mutter.

He has collaborated with leading conductors and orchestras across Europe and North America, and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Concertgebouw, and Suntory Hall. Highlights of recent seasons include major European tours, appearances in Asia and North America, and his appointment as Artistic Partner of Wiener Concert-Verein. In addition to his international career, Timothy is an Associate Professor of Violin at the University of Ottawa, where his work bridges performance, research, and cultural outreach.

Eunice Kim

Eunice Kim is a highly sought-after collaborative pianist known for her expressive artistry and deep commitment to chamber music. She has performed with distinguished artists including Mihaela Martin, Robert McDuffie, Glenn Dicterow, Mark O'Connor, and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Jinwoo Lee, with whom she won the Best Duo Prize in Lausanne, Switzerland. Her performances have appeared at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, David Geffen Hall, Frankfurt Alte Oper, and Kölner Philharmonie, and have been featured on WETA, WQXR, Aspen Public Radio, and Swiss National Radio.

An active educator and mentor, Eunice regularly collaborates at leading summer festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and Great Mountain International Music Festival in Korea. She currently serves on the faculty of Morningside Music Bridge and previously taught at the Robert Schumann Musikhochschule in Düsseldorf, Germany. Eunice recently earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Maryland.

Production Credits

Recorded at Guarneri Hall, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America
Dec 3 & 4, 2024 and Dec 8 & 9, 2025

Producer: Stefan Hersh

Recording Engineer: Christopher Willis

Special Thanks

We extend our sincere thanks to Guarneri Hall for generously providing their beautiful venue for this recording.

Instrument Acknowledgments

Timothy Chooi performs on the 1714 "Dolphin" Stradivarius, on generous loan from the Sasakawa Music Foundation, the 1741 "Titan" Guarneri del Gesù (CANIMEX Group, Drummondville, Québec) and a 1761 Carlo Ferdinando Landolfi violin (University of Ottawa).

Nikki Chooi performs on a 1713 Stradivarius (CANIMEX INC., Drummondville, Québec) and a 1749 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini on extended loan from the Stradivari Society.

Endorsements

Both artists are proud endorsers of Thomastik-Infeld Strings.

Photos

Curtis Perry

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