

**Programme note by Chris Darwin. Please use freely for non-commercial activities**

**Josef Haydn (1732-1809): Sonata No. 34 in D major, Hob. XVI/33 (1778)**

*Allegro*

*Adagio*

*Tempo di Minuet*

Haydn wrote about 50 sonatas for the keyboard, the early ones for harpsichord and the later ones, embellished with dynamics, for fortepiano. Some are unpretentious and perhaps written for students, but many are substantial and as finely crafted as the much better known piano trios and string quartets. The very last were written for the more powerful pianos and pianists that he encountered in London.

Today's D major sonata comes from a transitional period away from the harpsichord when Haydn was in the middle of his employment at the Esterhazy court. It was probably written for personal use by members of the court, rather than for public performance; the modest but carefully constructed Minuet variations of the final movement testify to its intimate character.