



# Agnes Szekely Schwartz

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## Contents:

- **Biography**
- **Reviews**
- **Concerto Repertoire**
- **Solo Repertoire**
- **Concerts Programs**

# Agnes Szekely Schwartz- BIOGRAPHY

Ms Schwartz is a native of Budapest, Hungary, from a musician/artist family. She attended the Béla Bartók Conservatory and the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, and California State University in Northridge. After winning many prizes in Hungary, she was the recipient of a three-year Viola Fellowship to the Aspen Music Festival and winner of the Sterling Scholarship in Aspen. In 2009 she won the CSUN Concerto Competition and received the CSUN Music Department Arts Council Music Scholarship Endowment Award.

She has concertized extensively in Europe, Israel and in the Western US and appeared live at various Radio and TV channels in Europe. She held concertmaster and principal viola positions in symphony orchestras and theatres in Europe and Israel. Currently she is living in Los Angeles, performing and teaching at a college.

Ms Schwartz specializes in authentic performances of 17th and 18th century music, works by Hungarian composers, especially Bartók, art music written on Gypsy and Hungarian themes, 20th century and contemporary music. She improvises and writes her own cadenzas to baroque, classical, gypsy, jazz and some modern works.

Authentic performances include all solo sonatas and partitas by J S Bach on baroque violin, recitals with harpsichord, chamber music by Mozart and Beethoven, and 18th century violin and viola concertos. She performed several sets of The Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi, directing the orchestra. Ms Schwartz has researched and gave theme recitals on compositions based on Gypsy music, as well as creative mood recitals in a certain key or from a certain era. She wrote an intro cadenza and variations to the Csardas by Vittorio Monti.

She performed An Ideal from Deux Portraits, Rhapsody #1 for violin and the Serly version of the Viola Concerto by Béla Bartók, the viola concertos by Gyula Dávid and William Walton and Der Schwanendreher by Paul Hindemith. She premiered the French Suite for Viola and Orchestra by Erzsébet Szőnyi, student of Zoltan Kodaly and Nadia Boulanger.

Her most recent solo performances include the Shéhérazade by Rimsky-Korsakov and Tango por una Cabeza with the Rio Hondo Symphony, of which she is concertmaster since 2007, the Violin Concerto #2 by Béla Bartók with both the SFVSO and the CSUN Philharmonic, and an appearance with a big band as a jazz violinist. On recital she gave performances of the Kreutzer Sonata by Beethoven, the Contrasts by Bartók and the Suite from The Soldier's Tale by Stravinsky.

She premiered the double concerto for violin and viola by James Domine [viola] and two works by Liviu Marinescu: the Quodlibet Sonata for viola solo in 2010 and Harmonic Fields [violin] with the Nimbus Ensemble in 2011.

# Agnes Szekely Schwartz-Reviews

Vigorous, accented and soft tones emerging from her violin... Expressive, secure, powerful and sensitive: Agnes Schwartz. She delighted her audience with her violin in the paraphrase of *Franz Liszt on the poem by Lenau The Three Gypsies* and in the Three Hungarian Dances by Leo Weiner. She played on her little music instrument with an unbelievable passion

**Heilbronner Zeitung, Ulrike Maushake**

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Dancing light reflexes and summer storm...summer reigns in the Sonata Representativa by Biber, where the chirps and trills of bird sounds raise from the baroque violin and the soft sound structure of the harpsichord is gently rocking the grass blades. Full of syncopations, the piece almost works as contemporary. The Sonata in f minor by Tremais (1736) with its concertante character, uniting the dramatic chords of the harpsichord with diverse recitatives of the violin to a dance, raising high expectations from the performer. AS gives a taste of her soloist abilities in the Partita in E major by J S Bach, to which she adds a special liveliness, alternating between polyphony, virtuoso passages and arpeggios. In The Summer from The Four Seasons by Vivaldi, like in a deep breath raises the violin from the sound coating of the harpsichord: bird sounds in the silence before the storm. Then the duo throws itself vehemently into the thundering summer storm. A crowning end, honored with roaring applause and bravos.

**Heilbronner Zeitung, Kultur Regional, Monica Köhler**

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The program contained a jewel piece with the Sonata in f minor for violin and harpsichord by Tremais. Ms Schwartz found this sonata at the library of the Musikhochschule [College of Music] in Stuttgart. Only the name of the composer and the year 1736 as dating of the piece are known. "The piece is very demanding, but it was worth to learn it" announced Ms Schwartz before the performance. The audience had a surprise treat...

**Heilbronner Stimme, Schozach & Bottwartal, Luzia Grimm**

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Ms Schwartz (violin) convinced us of her abilities (already) in the Romanza Andaluza in C major by Sarasate, playing with full of temperament and emotions. Then she performed the Nocturne in E flat major by Chopin/Sarasate, moving and with precision.

**Heilbronner Zeitung, Kultur Region, I.G.**

Gypsy Music in many variations – neck-breaking technical hurdles easily mastered.... Full of soul and temperament...Well-sounding names from the chamber music scene and the abilities of Agnes Schwartz and Dora Kalikhman – an evening of the special class of a renowned concert series... They both stand for a special musical quality, as it has gone around here already... The Rhapsody #1 by Béla Bartók was heard in a captivating interpretation.... The Zigeunerweisen [Gypsy Airs] by Sarasate was presented in an excellent performance.... The fact that Ms Schwartz comes from a family of musicians in 2 Hungary, became clear latest by the first few melancholic of sounds of the Zigeunerweisen. She enchanted her stunned audience with soulful, at the same time sparkling temperament, polished glissandi, shining peak notes, as well as the other, seemingly effortlessly mastered technical caprioles of this salon piece.... The musical translation of Franz Liszt of the poem of Lenau The Three Gypsies in the paraphrase for violin and piano is mirroring his torn up, brittle disposition of the dark and gloomy atmosphere of the lyrics, which was underlined by the sound interpretation of the artists.

The climax was reached with the last piece on the program, the Concert Rhapsody Tzigane by Maurice Ravel – one of the most important works of the violin literature, filled with the most neck-breaking technical hurdles.... Her enormous finger and bow technique... brought even the most awkward passages of harmonics into a secure sound, the flexibility and variability of her tone up to the highest regions...the individual atmosphere of each section through the perfect harmony of playing together... held the excitement...the wonder of this interpretation will stay in everyone's memory for a long time. The artists thanked the enthusiastic applause with another encore from the Gypsy theme literature.

**Heilbronner Stimme, Neckar-Zaber-Rundschau, Ursula Wölk**

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Masterly violin sounds... [J S Bach] Solo sonata in g minor: with much routine and full of energy celebrated the music... melancholic tone of the Siciliana... as a contrast, the Presto followed on the feet...

**Heilbronner Zeitung, Kultur Region, Tobias Bumm**

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[Mendelssohn: Trio in d minor] ...very expressive...

**Heilbronner Zeitung, Jürgen Kunz**

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Two Portraits op.5 by Béla Bartók...the big violin solo performed by a Hungarian soloist, Agnes Székely Schwartz

**Schwarzwälder Bote, GT**

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The Hungarian violinist Agnes Szekely Schwartz... soloist for the Two Portraits op.5 by Béla Bartók is considered to be a masterly Bartók-interpreter...

**Südkurier**

The Hungarian violinist Agnes Szekely Schwartz appeared as soloist in the Two Portraits op.5 by Béla Bartók... She presented herself in the Andante portrait An Ideal decidedly as a specialist for this sort of music. The solistic, highly melodic opening motif – a rising broken 7th chord – is taken up by the orchestra; slowly, step by step a beautiful body of sound is developed...

**Südkurier, Peter Schinnerling**

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Two Portraits, an early work of Béla Bartók... mysterious, emphasizing the strings and structured as a fugue, opened with a long, meditative violin solo – with a conscious, structured interpretation of the soloist Agnes Székely Schwartz who flows blending into the tutti passages with a never ceasing inner elasticity of emphatic, esthetic charm.

**Südwestpresse, Ulrich Dalm**

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Vivaldi: The Four Seasons with Agnes Schwartz... Appetizing courses of the menu...the storm broke out...brave soloist.

**Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Elbe-Kurier, Melchior Frank**

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The Four Seasons by A. Vivaldi, introducing Ms Schwartz – she gave an excellent performance.

**Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Elbe-Kurier, Erhard Hellwig-Kühn**

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...unusually beautiful timbres, fantasy, poesy...

**Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Elbe-Kurier, Erhard Hellwig-Kühn**

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A compact, concentrated performance of the Contrasts (1938) for violin, clarinet and piano by Béla Bartók by Agnes Schwartz, violin, Annette Fischer, clarinet and Ulrich Meckies, piano. Tightly and thickly knit of characteristic rhythmical and metrical conciseness and most genuinely Bartók ... proving exactly the seeming casualty as compositional skillfulness...

**Ostseezeitung, Greifswald, Dr. Ekkehard Ochs**

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making noble, subtle music...sensible, genuine French sound effects, competent and dedicated...

**Ostseezeitung, Greifswald, Dr. Ekkehard Ochs**

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Successful Matinee... Highly qualified musicians... perform chamber music. Acoustic melodiousness pleased the audience. The Violin Sonata by Ravel, the Four Pieces for Violin & Piano by Webern and the Horn Trio op.40 by Brahms – cannot go any subtler! Neither attractive, nor charming pieces for the first sight at all, for which the acoustic satisfaction achieved – which we find even in Webern – lies as priority results of artistic considerations and intellectual work of Agnes Schwartz (violin) Bert Bürgers (French horn), and Ulrich Meckies (piano). They dedicated themselves successfully to revive this process, which manifests at Webern in punctual details, while both at Ravel and Brahms one has to work more or less with forms based on classical roots. The artists had seemingly no difficulties at all to switch between styles. Concentrated, exciting tonal effects at Webern and mobility, powerful musicianship, complexity in the other two works.

**Ostseezeitung, Greifswald, Dr. Ekkehard Ochs**

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Five Hungarian artists gave three concerts in Paris in the past few days – one of the concerts was recorded at Radio France, Paris.

**Budapest, Hungary**

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Baroque recital in original instruments, with much deserved success.

**Esztergom, Hungary**

# Agnes Szekely Schwartz-Concerto Repertoire

## Concertos and concert pieces for Violin & Orchestra

### **J S Bach**

Concerto in a minor  
Concerto in E major  
Concerto for two violins in d minor  
Concerto for violin & oboe in d minor

### **Bartók**

Deux Portraits op 5/#1 An Ideal (1908)  
Violin Concerto #2 (1937-38)  
Rhapsody #1

### **Beethoven**

Romanze in G major, op.40  
Romanze in F major, op.50  
Violin Concerto, op.61

### **Bériot**

Concerto #9 in a minor, op.104

### Lalo

Symphonie Espagnole, op.21

### **Massenet**

Thais – Meditation

### **Mendelssohn**

Violin Concerto in e minor, op.64

### **Mozart**

Violin Concerto #3, G major KV 216  
Violin Concerto #4, D major KV 218  
Violin Concerto #5, A major KV 219  
Symphony Concertante in E flat major,  
KV 364  
Rondo in G major

### **Ravel**

Tzigane - Rapsodie de Concert, 1924

### **Rimsky-Korsakov**

Scheherazade - suite

### **Saint-Saëns**

Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso,  
op.28

### **Sarasate**

Introduction & Tarantella, op.43  
Zigeunerweisen, op.20

### **Tchaikovsky**

Violin Concerto in D major, op.35

### **Viotti**

Concerto #23 in G major

### **Vieuxtemps**

Concerto #4 in d minor

### **Vivaldi**

Op.3 – 12 concertos  
Op.8 – 12 concertos – including The  
Four Seasons

### **Wieniawski**

Legende in g minor, op.17

## Concertos and concert pieces for viola & orchestra

### **J C Bach**

Viola Concerto (Casadesus)

### **Bartók-Serly**

Viola Concerto

### **Berlioz**

Harold in Italy

### **Gyula Dávid**

## Viola Concerto

### **James Domine**

Concertino for violin, viola & string orchestra – premiered in 2008

### **George Enescu**

Concert Piece for Viola & orchestra

### **Handel**

Viola Concerto in B minor

### **Hindemith**

Der Schwanendreher

### **Hoffmeister**

Viola Concerto in D major

### **Joubert**

## Concertino

### **Mozart**

Symphony Concertante in E flat Major, KV 364

### **Stamitz**

3 Viola concertos (D, D, A)

### **Erzsébet Szonyi**

French Suite for Viola & orchestra - dedicated to the artist

### **G Ph Telemann**

Viola Concerto in G major

### **Walton**

Viola Concerto

### **Zelter**

Viola Concerto

# Agnes Szekely Schwartz-Solo Repertoire

## 1. Solo (unaccompanied) works for violin

### **Albéniz**

Asturias – from guitar

### **J S Bach**

Six Solo Sonatas & Partitas BWV  
1001-1006

### **Debussy**

Syrinx - from flute - 1913

### **Hungarian style dances**

Bihari, Csermák, Lavotta, Rózsavölgyi  
– 18th century

### **Kurtág**

In Nomine - 2001

### **Paganini**

Caprices - selections

### **A Sallinen**

Cadenze - 1965

### **Stravinsky**

Elegie – from viola - 1944

### **Telemann**

12 Solo Phantasies - 1735

## 2. Solo (unaccompanied) works for viola

### **J S Bach**

Six Solo Suites for violoncello BWV  
1007-1012

### **Hindemith**

Solo Sonatas for viola

o Op 11/5

o Op 25/1

### **Kurtág**

Signs for solo viola - 1961

### **L Marinescu**

Quodlibet Sonata for viola solo –  
transcription made for the artist from  
the cello original – world premiere in  
2010

### **Max Reger**

Solo Suite in G minor

### **Stravinsky**

Elegie - 1944

## 3. Recital pieces for violin & piano

### **Albéniz**

Tango

Cancion Catalan

Jota Aragonese

### **Bartók**

Rhapsody #1

Sonatina (Gertler)

Romanian Folk Dances (Z Székely)

Andante - 1902

3 folk songs from Csik County

(Szebenyi)

For Children – 10 easy pieces

(Zathureczky)

10 Slovakian folk songs (Mózi) 2

### **Brahms**

Hungarian Dances: #1, #5

### **Chopin/Sarasate**

Nocturne in E flat major op.9/#2

**Debussy**  
Reverie 1893

**Dinicu**  
Hora Staccato  
Die Lerche

**Drigo**  
Valse Bluette

**Farkas**  
Romanian Dances from Bihar County

**Hector Gallac**  
Pastoral Calchaqui

**Lucio Goldberg**  
Cancion Cuna

**Glazunov**  
Serenade Espagnole

**Gluck**  
Melody

**Hubay**  
Rózsa Csárdás  
The Luthier of Cremona – violin solo

**B Kéler**  
A Puszták fia – Der Sohn der Heide

**Khachaturian**  
Valse in A minor from the ballet  
Spartacus

**Kodály**  
Adagio

**Liszt**  
The 3 Gypsies – Paraphrase for violin  
& piano

**Monti –Schwartz**  
Csárdás

**Paganini**

Cantabile

**M T de Paradis**  
Sicilienne

**Piazzolla**  
Milonga en Re

**Pugnani-Kreisler**  
Introduction & Allegro

**Raff**  
Cavatine

**Sarasate**  
Romanza Andaluza  
Zapateado

**Schubert**  
Ave Maria  
L'Abeille

**Tchaikovsky**  
Serenade Melancolique op. 26

**Vecsey**  
Humoresque  
Valse Triste

**Veracini**  
Largo

**Vitali**  
Chaconne

**Anton Webern**  
4 Pieces for Violin & Piano 1910

**Wieniawski**  
Kuyawiak3

#### 4. Sonatas for Violin & Piano

**J S Bach**  
6 sonatas for violin & piano  
2 sonatas for violin & B.C.

**Beethoven**

Sonata #1 D major  
Sonata #5 Spring Sonata  
Sonata #9 Kreutzer-Sonata op 47

**E von Borck**

Sonata

**Brahms**

3 Sonatas for violin & piano

**Corelli**

12 sonatas

**Debussy**

Sonata

**Dohnányi**

Sonata

**Dvorák**

Sonatina op 100

**C Franck**

Sonata

**Grieg**

Sonata in G major

**Handel**

6 sonatas

**Mozart**

Sonatas

**Ravel**

Sonata

**Schubert**

Sonatina in D major

**Schumann**

Sonata #1 in a minor

Sonata #2 in d minor

**Tartini**

Sonata in g minor

**Tremais**

Sonata in f minor – 1786

**Veracini**

Sonata in a minor

**5. Sonatas and recital pieces for Viola & Piano**

**J S Bach**

3 Sonatas for viola da gamba & piano

**Brahms**

2 Sonatas for clarinet/viola & piano,  
op.120

**Eccles**

Sonata in g minor

**Glinka**

Sonata

**Hindemith**

Sonata in F major

**Horusitzky**

Sonata for viola & piano

**Kodály**

Adagio

**Mendelssohn**

Sonatina in c minor

**Schubert**

Arpeggione Sonata

**Schumann**

Märchenbilder

# Agnes Szekely Schwartz-Concerts Programs

## 1. "When Bach is sad" - recital of works by J S Bach in the minor keys – Germany

Solo Sonata for violin in g minor - BWV 1001  
Sonata for violin and basso Continuo in e minor – BWV 1023  
Partita in d minor for solo violin – BWV 1004

## 2. "Catch the Gypsy!" – International Gypsy Theme Recital – Germany

Lavotta: Grave in c minor [1st song for Sarasate: Zigeunerweisen]  
Szentirmay: "Csak egy kislány..." [2nd song for Sarasate]  
Sarasate: Zigeunerweisen op.20  
[Chopin: Valse Grande Brillante in D flat major for piano]  
Chopin-Sarasate: Nocturne in E flat Major op. 9/#2  
Bartók: Rhapsody #1  
Liszt: The 3 Gypsies – Paraphrase for violin & piano  
[Chopin: Fantaisie - Impromptu in c# minor for piano]  
Ravel: Tzigane – Rapsodie de Concert  
Sarasate: Zapateado

## 3. Hungarian/Gypsy Theme Recital – CSUN, 2008

Bartók: Rhapsody #1 - "Lassu"  
Bartók: 3 Folk songs from Csik County;  
Liszt: The 3 Gypsies – Paraphrase for violin & piano  
Hubay: The Luthier of Cremona – solo  
Monti : Csárdás – with intro cadenza and variations by Ms. Schwartz  
Vecsey: Humoresque

## 4. Beethoven: Kreutzer-Sonata [7 times in 2009]

## 5. Bartók: Contrasts [5 times in 2009]

## 6. Bartók: Violin Concerto #2 [3 times with piano in 2009, 2 times with orchestra in 2010]

## 7. Stravinsky: Histoire du Soldat – Suite [3 times in 2009]

## 8. Recital In The Key of G – Hungary, 2009

Bach: Organ Fantasia in G major BWV 572–Prelude –transcription by Ms. Schwartz  
Bach: Solo sonata in g minor – BWV 1001 – Adagio, Fugue & Presto;  
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons – The Summer, Violin Concerto in g minor  
Rózsavölgyi: “Lassu” in g minor  
Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto – Canzonetta in g minor  
Brahms: Hungarian Dances #1 & #5 in g minor  
Bartók: Rhapsody #1 – “Lassu” in g minor  
Stravinsky: Elegie [violin] in g minor – 1944  
Sallinen: Cadenza in G – 1965

## 9. Recital – Ontario, CA, 2009

Bach: Largo & Fugue C major BWV 1005  
Pugnani-Kreisler: Introduction & Allegro  
Debussy: Reverie - 1890  
Saint-Saëns: Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso  
Bartók – Z Székely: Romanian Folk Dances

## 10. Recital – United Hungarian House of Los Angeles, 2009

Bach: Largo & Fugue in C major BWV 1005  
Mozart: Violin Concerto #5 - Adagio, improvised cadenza  
Paganini: Caprice # XVII  
Saint-Saëns: Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso  
Kurtág: In Nomine (2001)  
Lavotta: Daydreams - cca 1790;  
Bartók – Z Székely: Romanian Folk Dances

## 11. “Moods and Impressions for Violin - from Bartók to Kurtág through Europe” – MM Violin Recital, CSUN, 2010

Bartók: Deux Portraits – An Ideal op.5/#1 - 1908  
Debussy: Syrinx – 1913  
Anton Webern: Four pieces for violin & piano – 1910  
Stravinsky: Elegie [violin] – 1944  
Ravel: Tzigane – Rapsodie de Concert – 1924  
L Marinescu: Quodlibet sonata for Viola Solo – 2010 – World Premiere  
Debussy: Rêverie for violin & piano – orig. 1890  
A Sallinen: Cadenza – 1965  
Ravel: Blues from the Sonata – 1923-27  
Kurtág: In Nomine – 2001 3

## 12. Recital – Santa Clarita, CA, 2011

Bach: g minor Adagio & Fugue BWV 1001

Paganini: Caprice #XVII

Beethoven: Kreutzer Sonata 1st movement

Kurtág: In Nomine – 2001

Ravel: Tzigane - Rapsodie de Concert – 1924

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto op.35

