

**Johann Gottlieb Graun (1702 or 1703–1771):
Sonata in B-flat major for Violin and Obligato Keyboard, GraunWV Av:XV:46
Editorial Commentary**

This piece is extraordinary not only for the exuberant solos for both instruments in the two quick movements, but also for its dynamic markings, signaling a decrescendo from **f** to **p**, **pp**, and even **ppp** near the end of the first movement—the unusual dynamic marking implying unusually intense expressive ambitions as the passage moves to the rare key of B-flat minor, which is echoed in both subsequent movements—and the tempo changes within the final movement, which is, exceptionally, through-composed, and moreover has the violinist playing at times with a mute, something very rare in a solo violin sonata.

Sources: D B, AmB 240/2 (Schober); D Bsa SA 3763 (Berlin 63). AmB is a score; SA comprises separate parts, designated “Clavicembalo” and “Violino”.

The two sources are independent of one another, but they are very close. Numerous minor errors or inconsistencies common to both (such as certain missing slurs and ornaments) show that they derive from a common exemplar, presumably a composing score. Both are inaccurate with regard to performance markings; AmB has been adopted as principal source, as it is from a collection overseen by Graun’s fellow court musician Kirnberger (nothing is known about the origin of SA).

The list of readings below omits most variants found only in SA that involve missing or differently placed dynamics, ornament signs, values of appoggiaturas, and articulation markings (dots, strokes, and slurs). In both sources, slurs between single “grace” notes and the following main note appear inconsistently; all such slurs are omitted from the edition.

mv. 1

- | | | |
|--------|------|--|
| 5 | r.h. | AmB: notes 2–3: d2–bb1 not bb1–g1; edition follows SA (cf. vn., m. 22) |
| 7 | r.h. | AmB: slurs on notes 2–3, 4–5; edition follows SA (which also has a slur on notes 3–5) and mm. 67–68 |
| 9 | r.h. | AmB: no slur; edition follows SA (where slur begins on note 2) |
| 22 | r.h. | SA: “tr” on note 1 |
| 24 | vn. | AmB: no slur; edition follows m. 67 |
| 25, 27 | l.h. | SA: no dyns. (in r.h. only) |
| 27 | vn. | AmB: slur on notes 2–3 |
| 27–29 | vn. | AmB: a single faint slur from the last note of m. 27 through the last note of m. 29 (slurs in edition, mm. 28–29, are from SA) |
| 29 | r.h. | AmB: no natural |
| 30 | vn. | AmB: slur on notes 2–3, not 1–3 (edition follows SA) |

- 33–35 r.h. SA: slur on notes 1–3 (in each measure); likewise in vn., m. 35
- 37 r.h. AmB: no inner voice (from SA)
- 45 r.h., vn. AmB: slurs extend to last note; SA: slur on notes 2–5 (r.h.)
- 46 r.h. SA: slur on notes 2–4, not 3–4 (likewise in m. 50); no slur on notes 5–8
- 49 vn. AmB: natural (not sharp) on note 4
- 52–57 AmB has dyns. only in l.h., mm. 52 (“p”), 53 (“f”), and 54 (“p”); edition follows SA, despite the different pattern of dyns. in mm. 80–84 (where SA agrees with AmB)
- 53 vn. SA: additional slur over last three notes, as well as over the entire measure
- 57 vn. AmB: single slur extends to penultimate note; edition follows SA
- 60 vn. AmB: single slur over the entire measure; edition follows SA
- 63 vn. AmB: no “tr” on last note; edition follows SA
- 65 r.h. SA: alignment as shown d2 (32d) directly beneath g2 (64th)
- 68 l.h. AmB: note 1: d not Bb
- 72 r.h. AmB: “p” on last note of previous measure
- 83 l.h. AmB: no “f” (from SA)
- 84 vn. AmB: tie on notes 5–6; the edition interprets this as a slur on notes. 6–7
- 90 vn. SA: “pp” not “ppp” on last note
- 91 vn. both sources: slur on the three small notes only
- 98 l.h. note 2 (F) missing in both sources
- mvt. 2*
- 1 r.h. AmB: first slur ambiguous, could begin on note 1; edition follows SA and vn. in m. 12
- 1, 12 r.h., vn. AmB, SA (r.h.): no tie on mm. 5–6; second slur begins on note 5
- 16 vn. both sources: second “grace” note g2 not f2; presumably a *Triller von unten* is intended
- 38 vn. AmB: no stac. on last two notes (edition follows SA)
- 43 vn. AmB: stac. stroke also on note 6 (c21, following tie)
- 46 r.h. both sources have g1 (not a1) for note 5, but cf. mm. 49, 128, 131

- 53 vn. AmB: no “f” (edition follows SA)
- 55 r.h. AmB: note 3: g1 not e1
- 61 l.h. AmB: no “f” (from SA)
- 62 r.h. AmB: no “f” (from SA)
- 76 vn. AmB: no “f” (edition follows SA)
- 80 r.h. inner voice absent from both sources
- 83 vn. AmB: no slur on notes 2–4 (from SA)
- 95 r.h. AmB: “f” on note 2, not note 1
- 104–10 l.h. AmB: no dyns. (from SA)
- 104 vn. AmB: no dyns. (this measure only; edition follows SA)
- 114 r.h. AmB: natural on first e1 (SA appears to have flat, but scan is unclear)
- 118–22 r.h., l.h. SA: from the second half of m. 118 through the first half of m. 122, each 16th note is separately flagged (no beams) and followed or preceded by a 16th rest
- 120 l.h. both sources: note 6 is g not bb (editorial conjecture)
- 128 vn. AmB: no slur (from SA)
- mvt. 3*
- 1–18 l.h. AmB: no figs. (from SA)
- 9 vn. AmB: slur extends to last measure (edition follows SA)
- 21 r.h. AmB: “grace” note is quarter, not 8th, but cf. m. 3
- 40 r.h. AmB: “tr” in both voices above and below slurs, respectively, between notes 1 and 2;
SA: “tr” in upper voice only, on note 1
- 89 vn. AmB: slur begins on note 1; edition follows SA
- 89–90 r.h. AmB: long slur over all notes as well as one on notes 2–4 of m. 89; edition interprets as slur on notes 1–2 of m. 90 (none in SA)
- 100 r.h. AmB: no “p”; on note 2 in SA
- 101–3 r.h. SA: separate slurs over mm. 101, 102–3

- 104 r.h. SA (inner voice): bb1 (quarter), no a1 (8th)
- 105 r.h. neither source has “pp,” but cf. m. 298
- 111 vn. both sources: slur over all notes (as well as one on notes 2–4)
- 118 vn. AmB: slur from previous measure(s) continues to note 1
- 120 r.h. AmB: no slur (from SA)
- 121 vn., r.h. AmB: fermata over 8th rest; SA (r.h.): fermata over note 1
- 140–43 vn. SA: in each measure, slur on notes 1–4, stac. on notes 5–6
- 147 r.h. AmB: slur covers only this measure, which, however, falls at the end of the page, and the slur extends into the margin; edition follows vn. in mm. 160–63
- 149, 151 kb. AmB: no dyns. (from SA)
- 152 r.h. SA: slur continues through this measure
- 164 vn. AmB: slur from previous measure extended to note 1
- 168 vn. both sources: no dots; edition follows m. 166
- 181, 183 vn. SA: no dyns.
- 190 kb. AmB: no “p” (from SA)
- 209 l.h. SA: no natural; slur begins on note 1 of this measure
- 217 r.h. AmB: appog. is quarter, not 8th; edition follows vn.
- 221 l.h. SA: “f” not “p” (no dyn. in next measure)
- 233 r.h. AmB: no “tr” (from SA)
- 240–41 vn., r.h. AmB: no ties, but implied by slur over each measure
- 241 r.h. “tr” on note 1 in both sources; edition follows vn. in m. 240
- 256 vn. AmB: slur on notes 1–5; edition follows m. 254
- 260, 262 kb. SA: no dyns.
- 295 r.h. AmB: “p” beneath note 2 (not in m. 294)
- 304 vn. both sources: a single slur over notes 2–5; SA: also a slur on the two “grace” notes

- 306 r.h. AmB: separate slurs on notes 1–2, 3–6
- 307–11 r.h. AmB: each slur ends with the last note of the previous measure
- 307 kb. SA: “p” on note 2 (r.h. only); edition reads by analogy to m. 298 and to vn. in m. 308
- 318 vn. AmB: no “f” (from SA)
- 324 r.h. AmB: no appog. (bb1)