

The New Criterion

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Music for a While #33: ‘Great are companions such as these’

by Jay Nordlinger

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That is a line from a hymn. Jay says it must apply to Bach’s Cello Suites, which players of that instrument get to live with all life long—through good times and (maybe most important) bad. Of course, all of the pieces on this program may be called “great companions”: from the pens of composers famous and obscure. An appetizing, companionable episode.

Bach, Allegro assai, Brandenburg Concerto No. 2

Bach-Rachmaninoff, Preludio, Violin Partita in E major

Tchaikovsky-Wild, Pas de quatre, “Swan Lake”

Bach, Sarabande, Cello Suite in C minor

Mancini, “Quanto dolce è quell’ardore”

Dalza, “Calata ala spagnola”

Monteverdi, “Quel sguardo sdegnosetto”

Price, F., “Down a Southern Lane”

Trad., arr. F. Price, “My Soul’s Been Anchored in the Lord”

Jay Nordlinger is a Senior Editor at *National Review*.

His podcast with *The New Criterion*, titled “Music for a While,” can be found [here](#).