

# Sonata III for Two Violins

I.

Joseph Bologne  
(1745-1799)

The image displays the first eight measures of the first movement of Sonata III for Two Violins by Joseph Bologne. The score is written for two violins (Vln.) in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The first four measures show the upper violin playing a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the lower violin plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system, starting at measure 5, features the upper violin playing a series of chords with slurs, and the lower violin continuing its accompaniment with slurs and ties.

Joseph Bologne (1745-1799) was born to an enslaved African and her Guadeloupean master. His father moved the family to France in 1753, where Joseph became a skilled fencer and was dubbed chevalier at age nineteen. As an acclaimed professional violinist, he premiered his own concerti and published string quartets, operas, and symphonies. He founded the Concert de la Loge Olympique, directed the Amateurs, and was a colonel of the Légion des Américains et du Midi.