

**Viola Repertoire Guide**  
**Max Bruch (1838–1920)**  
*Romanze for Viola and Orchestra, op. 85*

**Date of Composition:** 1911

**Date of First Performance:** April 25, 1911, Willy Hess (viola), Orchestergesellschaft, Leo Schrattenholz (conductor), Berlin, Germany (private concert)

**Duration:** 9 minutes

**ASTACAP Level:** 8

**Dedication:** Maurice Vieux

**Genre:** Late Romantic (Twentieth Century)

**Instrumentation:** Solo viola, 1 flute, 1 oboe, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 3 French horns, 2 trumpets, timpani, strings

**Publisher:**

- Viola and Piano:
- Schott, Plate 29362, 1911 (available at: [http://imslp.org/wiki/Romanze\\_for\\_Viola\\_and\\_Orchestra,\\_Op.85\\_\(Bruch,\\_Max\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Romanze_for_Viola_and_Orchestra,_Op.85_(Bruch,_Max)))
  - Henle Verlag, HN 785, ISMN M-2018-0785-0, 2004
  - Summy-Birchard/Alfred Publishing, Suzuki Viola School, Volume 8, ISBN 978-1589513440, 2005 (William and Doris Preucil edition)
- Orchestral Version:
- Schott, Plate 29361, 1911 (score and parts available at: [http://imslp.org/wiki/Romanze\\_for\\_Viola\\_and\\_Orchestra,\\_Op.85\\_\(Bruch,\\_Max\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Romanze_for_Viola_and_Orchestra,_Op.85_(Bruch,_Max)))



**Select Recordings:**

- Maxim Rysanov (viola), Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Muhai Tang (conductor): BIS SACD-1843, 2011
- Yuri Bashmet (viola), London Symphony Orchestra, André Previn (conductor): RCA Red Seal 09026 63292 2, 1998
- Karen Dreyfus (viola) and Robert McDonald (piano): Bridge BCD 9016, 1989
- Rainer Moog (viola), Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie, Wolfgang Balzer (conductor): RBM Records RBM 3030, 1973

**Details:** *Romanze* was written late in Bruch's life during a period when he showed favor toward the viola, also composing *Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano*, op. 83 (1910) and the Double Concerto for Clarinet, Viola, and Orchestra, op. 88 (1911). The work was dedicated to the great French violist Maurice Vieux, who at the time was principal violist of the Paris Opéra and would later go on to a renowned teaching career at the Conservatoire de Paris. The premiere, however, was given by the German violinist Willy Hess, a friend of Bruch's. While the work is now a standard part of the repertoire and a favorite among violists, it received little attention from prominent violists during the early twentieth century, only receiving its first commercial recording in 1973.

**Alternate Versions:** Bruch arranged the solo viola part for violin when he prepared the piano reduction, and a version for violin and orchestra based on that arrangement has been recorded by Vadim Gluzman (BIS SACD-1852).

**Edition Notes:** The Henle urtext edition released in 2004 uses the first edition's viola part (Schott Plate 29362) as the principal source for the viola solo. These two editions' viola parts differ only slightly, primarily in minor instances of dynamics and articulations. The Henle edition includes fingerings and bowings by Jürgen Weber.