

# Hilary Hahn: Quick and Friendly Information Sheet

Hilary Hahn is a famous American violinist known around the world for her beautiful playing and interesting musical projects. This sheet will tell you who she is, what she does, and some fun ways you can listen to her music.

## Quick Facts

- Who: Hilary Hahn
- Nationality: American
- Main instrument: Violin
- Why she’s famous: She plays concerts all over the world, records albums, and is known for a clean, clear sound and great musical ideas.

## Early Life and Becoming a Musician

Hilary loved music when she was a kid. She started learning the violin at a very young age and kept practicing a lot. Because she worked hard and was talented, she began performing in front of audiences and joined important music schools and teachers as she grew up. That helped her learn fast and become a professional violinist.

## What Kind of Music Does She Play?

Hilary plays classical music. That includes very old music (like the music of Bach) and music written by living composers today. She is known for:

- Playing solo pieces (just her and the violin)
- Playing with orchestras (a big group of instruments) in concertos
- Working with modern composers to create new pieces

## Why People Like Her Playing

- Her tone is clear and warm – many listeners say her sound is easy to follow and beautiful.
- She pays close attention to the music’s details so every note feels important.
- She cares about both old music and new music, which helps keep classical music alive and fresh.

## Famous Recordings and Projects (What to Listen To)

Some of her most admired recordings include her performances of solo violin works and concertos. If you want to hear Hilary Hahn, a great place to start is:

- Her recordings of solo violin music (these show her clear tone and musical ideas very well)
- Any live concert video – watching her play helps you see how she uses her hands and body to make music

## Awards and Recognition

Hilary has received important awards and praise for her work. She is well respected by other musicians and critics, and she has won major music prizes for some of her recordings.

## Fun Facts

- She works with living composers to create new music for the violin.
- She sometimes shares stories and behind-the-scenes looks at practice and concerts so fans can learn more about how music is made.
- People often say she plays with both technical skill and a lot of feeling.

## Listening Activity for You (Step-by-step)

1. Find one short piece by Hilary Hahn (a solo piece or a short movement of a concerto).
2. First listen with no distractions – just close your eyes if you can and notice how the violin sounds (bright? warm? loud? soft?).
3. Next time, try to hear the main tune and hum it quietly to yourself. Can you follow it from the beginning to the end?
4. Think about the mood – is it happy, sad, excited, calm? How does the music make you feel?
5. If you play an instrument, try playing a short part by ear or clap the rhythm.

## Questions to Think About or Discuss

- What do you notice first when you hear Hilary play?
- Do you prefer old music (like Bach) or new music? Why?
- If you could ask a professional musician one question, what would it be?

## Final Thoughts

Hilary Hahn shows how practice, curiosity, and caring about music can lead to an exciting career. Whether you love the older pieces or the new ones she helps create, listening to her can teach you a lot about how expressive and detailed music can be.

Have fun exploring her recordings and thinking about what you hear!