Chronology
1717-1723 – J. S. Bach in Cöthen (court musician, not organist/choirmaster, focus on secular music)
1720 – death of first wife Maria Barbara Bach (1684-1720)
1720 – composition of all six works for solo violin (3 sonatas, 3 partitas)
The Partita in d minor BMV1004 was written soon after the death of his wife and is written as a memorial to her.

Two Types of Hidden Messages
I. Gematria (putting letters into numbers, which equal the order of the alphabet letters)
2. Hiding chorales within the texture of the chaconne that reinforce its meeting.

Part I (mm. 1-131) d minor
1. Christ lag in Todesbanden (Christ lay in death’s bonds)
2. Dein Will gescheh, Herr Gott, zugleich (Your will be done)
3. Befiel du deine Wege (Commit your path.)
4. Wo soll ich fliehen hin (Where shall I flee)
5. Auf meinen lieben Gott (In my dear God, I trust)
6. Jesu, meine Freude (Jesus, my joy)
Part II (mm. 132 – 207) D Major
7. Vom Himmel Hoch (From Heaven above)
8. Jesu, deine Passion will ich jetzt bedenken (Jesus, I will ponder now on the thy holy Passon)
9. Wie soll is dich empfangen
10. In meines Herzens Grunde (In the bottom of my heart)
11. Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren (Now praise, my soul, the Lord)

Part III (repetitions from earlier chorales) (mm. 208 – 256) d minor
11. Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren (Now praise, my soul, the Lord)
2. Dein Will gescheh, Herr Gott, zugleich (Your will be done)
1. Christ lag in Todesbanden (Christ lay in death’s bonds)

Online
Bach Chaconne from Partita No. 2 in d minor, BWV 1004
Jascha Heifetz – www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q-Zqz7mNjQ
Hilary Hahn - www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqA3qQMKueA
Isaac Stern - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zvRWFD_1_M
Joshua Bell - www.youtube.com/watch?v=myXOrVv-fNk
Poppen; The Hilliard Ensemble) - J S Bach - Ciaccona BWV 1004 accompanied by chorale fragments
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5D23cmVV04

Suggested Reading

