

Merz Trio -- Sample Outreach Programs

1. Interactive Performance: Stories and Sounds with Merz Trio

This specially crafted interactive performance is accessible to audiences with any level of musical experience, as well as any age group. In this program, Merz Trio focuses on program music and music that can be paired with poetry or text, encouraging the audience to explore multiple entry points to the music being performed (verbal, visual, and gestural). The program culminates in a group activity to create a poem to pair with a specific piece of music. Featuring excerpts from Copland, Tchaikovsky, Ravel, Schumann, Staud, and more!

2. Chamber Music Workshop / Master Class

Merz Trio carries forward the great teaching tradition of the Cleveland and Cavani Quartets and the Weilerstein Trio, while imparting their own energetic teaching style and master-level insights. The Trio believes particularly in not only nurturing and encouraging the highest level of artistry in young musicians, but also offering highly practical skills building in ensemble playing and rehearsal technique to any level of young ensemble.

Merz Trio has taught at C'est Bon Summer Chamber Music Academy and is conducting a series of residencies and workshops at New England Conservatory's Preparatory Division over the 19-20 season. They have also brought their teaching to youth orchestras and ensembles across the Midwest and in Burlington, VT, through tours and residencies sponsored by the Fischhoff Chamber Music Association and the Lake Champlain Music Festival. Merz pianist Lee Dionne currently teaches the undergraduate chamber music seminar at Yale University.

3. Orchestra Clinic / Classroom Presentation

Merz Trio is also highly experienced in working with larger ensembles, as well as presenting their music in a classroom environment. In sharing their work with high school and middle school students in particular, Merz Trio is able to draw on their history of interdisciplinary collaboration in relating their music to other art forms with which the students may be more familiar. (Merz Trio's concerts often pair music with visual art or poetry readings. Their project "Those Secret Eyes" brings together chamber performance, dance, and Shakespeare's Macbeth, and their programs often feature song arrangements for which the poetry and lyrics can be a strong entry point for students' imaginations).