

MERZTRIO

PROGRAM OFFERINGS 2024-2025

Merz Trio believes in programming that is unexpected, fresh and engaging, and in working closely with presenters to ensure programming that will speak to their audiences.

Below are program offerings for our 24-25 season. For dates when a specific sample program is unavailable, the Trio is happy to work closely with the presenter to create a suitable program to the best of their satisfaction.

Sample Program 1

ALMA MAHLER GOES WEST

(75 minutes of music with intermission)

Our program explores the musical and cultural collisions of the Second Viennese School with the new through the lens of Alma Mahler's fabled journeys through the United States. Our program travels with Mahler as we trace and imagine the interactions of Mahler and her Viennese contemporaries with the unique voices and ideas many of those composers discovered in their new home.

Our first half is an experiment in cultural exchange, across time and geographical space: here, we bring together bygone and contemporary musical voices - Viennese and American alike - Alma Mahler's friends and the contemporaries whose music she may have encountered. Our second half is less peopled: we return to a lost Viennese world in the music of Alma Mahler's great friend and correspondent Arnold Schoenberg, with an arrangement for piano trio of the mesmerizing sextet *Verklärte Nacht* (Transfigured Night) by Schoenberg's student Eduard Steuermann.

*First half lasts ca. 45 minutes, consisting of 5 short sets, demarcated by ****

Laue Sommernacht	Alma Mahler (1879 - 1964) (arr. Merz Trio)
Sommertage	Alban Berg (1885 - 1935) (arr. Merz Trio)
Für Bálint András Varga: 10 Miniatures for Violin, Cello and Piano Miniatures 1 - 4	Johannes Maria Staud (1974-)

The Cage	Charles Ives (1874 - 1954) (arr. Merz Trio)
Cello Suite, Op. 72 V. Serenata. Allegretto pizzicato	Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976)
River songs	Chris Rogerson (1988-)

II. massing clouds

Für Bálint András Varga
Miniature 5

Staud

Ideale Landschaft

Anton Webern (1883 - 1945) (arr. Merz Trio)

Für Bálint András Varga
Miniatures 6 - 7

Staud

'Round midnight

Thelonious Monk (1917 - 1982) (arr. Miles Walter)

Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65
II. Allegro grazioso - meno mosso

Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

Für Bálint András Varga
Miniatures 9 - 10

Staud

Empfängnis

Alexander Zemlinsky (1871-1942) (arr. Merz Trio)

Für Bálint András Varga
Miniature 8

Staud

Die stille Stadt

A. Mahler (arr. Merz Trio)

Intermission

Verklärte Nacht

Arnold Schoenberg (1874 -1951)

Sample Program 2

Night Songs

Schumann and Brahms

(75 minutes of music with intermission)

Join Merz Trio as we search for song in night's darknesses. Beginning with the 12th century chants spun by Hildegard von Bingen in her solitary monastic cell, we explore melody sung into and for the night, weaving together a musical conversation that joins the voices of Purcell, Schumann, Alma Mahler, Brahms and Zemlinsky in works large and small, and brings us right into the twentieth century with Thelonious Monk's poignantly lonely ode to a dark hour, 'Round Midnight.

Hymn O ignee spiritus Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) (arr. Merz Trio)

Six Studies in Canonic Form, Op. 56 Robert Schumann (1811 - 1856)
3. Andantino (arr. Theodor Kirchner)

'Round midnight Thelonious Monk (1917 - 1982) (arr. Miles Walter)

Hush No More Henry Purcell (1659-1695) (arr. Merz Trio)

Laue Sommernacht Alma Mahler (1879 - 1964) (arr. Merz Trio)

Empfängnis Alexander Zemlinsky (1871-1942) (arr. Merz Trio)

Piano Trio No. 2 in F Major, Op. 80 (1847) Robert Schumann (1811 - 1856)
1. Sehr lebhaft
2. Mit innigem Ausdruck
3. In mässiger Bewegung

4. Nicht zu rasch

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8 (rev. 1889)

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

1. Allegro con brio -- Tranquillo -- In tempo ma sempre sostenuto
2. Scherzo. Allegro molto -- Meno allegro -- Tempo primo
3. Adagio
4. Finale. Allegro