

MERZTRIO

PROGRAM OFFERINGS 2025-2026

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 25-26 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

Clara's Blumentagebuch

(75 minutes of music with intermission)

This program traces the steps of Clara Wieck Schumann, from 1857-1859, by way of flowers. It reflects glimpses from her *Blumentagebuch*—her diary of pressed flowers—in which Clara left dedications to meaningful people and moments in her life. This book accompanied her as she toured throughout Europe and served as a record of friendship, mourning and memory. Moving amongst Clara's floral meditations, we explore floriography in its romantic heyday and delight in the coded and the unspoken. With Clara, we visit Robert, Beethoven and Schubert, and bring in a musical friend of our own, Loren Loiacono (b. 1989), whose *Sonatensatz*, written for Merz in 2022, shares her distinct perspective and looks back to find resonance, in her own *Blumensprache*, with the Schumanns.

*First half lasts ca. 43 minutes, consisting of 2 sets, demarcated by ****

6 *Lieder aus* Jucunde, Op. 23 (1853) Clara Wieck Schumann (1819 - 1896) (arr. Merz Trio)
2. An einem lichten Morgen (On a clear morning)

“Die Blumensprache,” D. 519 Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828) (arr. Merz Trio)
(The language of flowers)

Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1 No. 3 (1795) Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)
IV. Finale. Prestissimo

“Das Veilchen” (The Violet) (1853) C. Schumann (arr. Merz Trio)

Vier Ernste Gesänge, Op. 121 Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897) (arr. Merz Trio)
I. Denn es gehet dem Menschen wie dem Vieh

(For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts)

Zwei Gesänge für Altstimme, Bratsche und Klavier, Op. 91 (1884)

1. Gestillte Sehnsucht (Bestilled Longing)

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

(arr. Merz Trio)

Sonatensatz (2022)

Loren Loiacono (b. 1989)

Intermission

Waldszenen, Op. 82

3. Einsame Blumen (Lonely Flowers)

Robert Schumann (1810 - 1856)

Piano Trio No. 3 in G Minor, Op. 110 (1851)

R. Schumann

1. Bewegt, doch nicht zu rasch (Moving, but not too fast)

2. Ziemlich langsam (Very slowly)

3. Rasch (Fast)

4. Kräftig, mit Humor (Strong, with humor)

Sample Program 2
ON YONDER HILL

From the remote hills of Ireland, to the bustle of a New York sidewalk, our program travels the world exploring the influence of folk music within the classical tradition. Our second half features Dvořák's Piano Trio in F minor, a piece rooted in Bohemian folk traditions. To prepare ourselves for this listening experience, our first half offers a diverse mix of music—everything from song to dance to story. The program opens with Merz Trio arrangements of Irish traditionals, then moves to Piazzolla's Argentine tangos; it encompasses the 16th century tarantellas of the Italian composer Matteis and the contemporary Chinese-American composer Chen Yi's *Tunes from Home*; and it traverses the Atlantic, veering from Ravel's boisterous duo for violin and cello to Charles Ives' attempt to establish his own 'folklore' in his Piano Trio.

This is a program that is inevitably about influence and appropriation. It is also a program about fresh interpretation and new conversations. But most of all, it's a program about the shared love of a good dance!

"On Yonder Hill"	Irish Traditional (arr. Merz Trio)
<i>Diverse bizzarie sopra la vecchia sarabanda o pur ciaccona</i>	Nicola Matteis (1650 - 1714) (arr. Merz Trio)
<i>5 Stücke im Volkston</i> , Op. 102 (1849) I. Mit Humor	Robert Schumann (1811 - 1856) (arr. Merz Trio)
Giga	Matteis (arr. Merz Trio)
<i>Fuga y Misterio</i> (1968)	Astor Piazzolla (1921 - 1982) (arr. Merz Trio)
Sonata for Violin and Cello (1922) II. Très vif	Maurice Ravel (1875 - 1937)
"I've Got Rhythm" (1930)	George Gershwin (1898 - 1937) (arr. Merz Trio)

18 Miniatures for Violin and Piano (1930)
Miniature No. 1: Lontano

Giya Kancheli (1935 - 2019) (arr. Merz Trio)

Ayre (2004)
II. Una madre comió asado

Oswaldo Golijov (b. 1960) (arr. Merz Trio)

Tunes from Home (2007)
I. Introduction

Chen Yi (b. 1953)

Piano Trio, S. 86 (1915)
II. TSIAJ (“This scherzo is a joke”). Presto

Charles Ives (1874 - 1954)

Romanian Folk Dances, Sz. 56
II. Sash Dance

Béla Bartók (1881 - 1945) (arr. Merz Trio)

Zefiro torna e di soavi accenti, SV 251 (1632)

Claudio Monteverdi (1567 - 1643) (arr. Merz Trio)

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65 (1883)
1. Allegro ma non troppo
2. Allegretto grazioso – Meno mosso
3. Poco Adagio
4. Finale. Allegro con brio

Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

Sample Program 3

Homesuite

Through the music of Beethoven, Alma Mahler, Nick DiBernardino and Dvorak, Merz Trio explores ideas of home: homes lost and homes remembered, homes left and homes discovered. Alma Mahler's moving song *Die Stille Stadt* (Quiet City), arranged by the Merz Trio, sets the scene: a solitary speaker moves through a deserted cityscape, lost to the idea of home until they hear the distant sound of singing and are returned to the familiarity of the communal. In Beethoven's first published opus, we find an innovator crafting a new kind of home - for himself and for piano trios! - from the timbers of the piano trio genre. We then modulate to an 'ode to home' by our friend and colleague Nick DiBernardino. A visit to "27 Morningside" affiliates the "last wisps of childhood fluttering through [his] fingers" with the separation of his family and marks the fulcrum between home as estrangement and home as endearment, tilting with remembrance. And finally, Dvorak's F minor trio sees a composer reaching for a language in which his own cultural identity, his 'home' might be parsed. In this trio - rousing and heartbreaking in equal measure - Dvorak infuses an everyday German Romanticism with distinctly Czech emphasis to create one of his greatest chamber works.

(80 minutes of music with intermission)

"Die Stille Stadt"

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

Piano Trio in C Minor, Op. 1, No. 3

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

1. Allegro con brio
2. Andante cantabile con 5 variazioni
3. Minuet. Quasi Allegro - Trio
4. Finale. Prestissimo

Homesuite (2010)

Nick DiBernardino (b. 1989)

1. 27 Morningside

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65 (1883)

Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

1. Allegro ma non troppo
2. Allegretto grazioso – Meno mosso
3. Poco Adagio
4. Finale. Allegro con brio