

MERZTRIO

PROGRAM OFFERINGS 23-24

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

Below are program offerings for our 23-24 season, and 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

OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Schumann and Vasks

(75 minutes of music with intermission)

Our program explores a central element in the music of Latvian composer, Pēteris Vasks: the struggle between the forces of darkness and light. Throughout the first half, movements from Vasks' *Episodi e canto perpetuo* find musical foils: Weinberg's Op. 24 Piano Trio, a work written in 1945, a product of war and refuge; the sense of mirroring and reflection in Schumann's canon for pedal piano; and our arrangement of Landi's Augellin which takes ideas from Messiaen's Quatour, conceived as a pairing for Vasks' work that itself pays homage to Messiaen. Midway, we find a moment of reprieve in Purcell's lullaby before disintegration and refraction ensues in Sokolović's *Portrait Parle*.

We end our program with the music of Schumann - a composer who struggled between darkness and light in both his music and his life. Here in our second half Schumann's glorious F major trio - at times blazing with sunshine, at others shadowed in uncertainty and restless searching - calls across the years to answer Vasks' original question.

Piano Trio, Op. 24

Mieczysław Weinberg (1919 - 1996)

1. Prelude and Aria. Larghetto

Episodi e canto perpetuo (1985)

Pēteris Vasks (b. 1946)

1. Crescendo

Six Studies in Canonic Form, Op. 56

Robert Schumann (1811 - 1856)

3. Andantino

(arr. Theodor Kirchner)

Episodi e canto perpetuo

Vasks

2. Misterioso

Augellin

Stefano Landi (1587 - 1639)

(arr. Merz Trio)

Episodi e canto perpetuo

Vasks

3. Unisoni

4. Burlesca

5. Monologhi

Hush No More

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

(arr. Merz Trio)

Portrait Parle (2006)

Ana Sokolović (b. 1968)

Episodi e canto perpetuo

Vasks

6. Burlesca II

7. Canto perpetuo

8. Apogeo e Coda

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 2 in F Major, Op. 80 (1847)

Schumann

1. Sehr lebhaft

2. Mit innigem Ausdruck

3. In mässiger Bewegung

4. Nicht zu rasch

Sample Program 2

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 Johannes Maria Staud (1974-)
Miniatures 1 - 4

The Cage Charles Ives (1874 - 1954) (arr. Merz Trio)

Cello Suite, Op. 72 Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976)
V. Serenata. Allegretto pizzicato

River songs Chris Rogerson (1988-)
II. massing clouds

Für Bálint András Varga
Miniature 5

Staud

Ideale Landschaft

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

5 Bagatelles
III. Romanze (Copland)

Daniel Temkin (1986-)

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 3*

The Complete Brahms Piano Trios (83 minutes of music with intermission)

Hear the Merz Trio bring their “stunning virtuosity” and “evocative musicianship” to these cornerstones of the trio repertoire. Whether coming to these pieces for the first or fiftieth time, the Brahms Trios are an unparalleled experience for the listener in their beauty, emotional intensity, and depth of feeling. Together, all three works create a compellingly contrasting program and a rare opportunity to hear the pieces side by side.

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major, Op. 87 (1880-82)

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Piano Trio No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 101 (1886)

Brahms

Intermission

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

Brahms

*As with all program offerings, Merz Trio is happy to customize the program for presenters who may be looking for a more traditional or Brahms-centric program but are unable to present the full Brahms cycle.