

---

# CONCERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

---

Spring - Summer 2017

Tuesday 14 March 2017

1.10pm

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

Michael Foyle · violin

Raphael Lang · cello

Hannah Harnest · piano

Programme of works by MOZART and WEINBERG



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh College of Art

## Piano Trio in B flat major KV502

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

1. Allegro
2. Larghetto
3. Allegretto

Mozart's piano trios differ from, say, the piano sonatas, the sonatas for piano and violin, the piano variations as occasional and fashionable compositions, and the piano concertos in that they are obviously discontinuous, not only within the context of his overall oeuvre but also, concomitantly, within the evolution of the genre itself. Indeed, the 'classical' piano trio is by far the most recent of the above genres, only emerging toward the end of the initial stage of the Viennese classical period. The discontinuity perceived in Mozart is at least equally as evident in Joseph Haydn: the first piano trio that Haydn acknowledged as such was written 'before 1766', and it was followed 'in 1769 (?)' by a Divertimento per il Cembalo con Pariton e 2 Violini that was later recast as a piano trio. It was not until 1784 that Haydn's real output of piano trios began, although it then continued unabated until 1795.

The autograph score Mozart's second Trio KV 502 in B flat Major was formerly preserved in the Prussian State Library, Berlin, and is presently located in the Biblioteka Jagiellonska, Kraków. Mozart entered the piece under 18 November 1786 in his autograph thematic catalogue.

Extract from Bärenreiter

## Piano Trio Op.24

Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1919-1996)

1. Präludium und Arie
2. Toccata: Allegro marcato
3. Poem: Moderato
4. Finale: Allegro moderato

Mieczyslaw Weinberg was born in 1919 in Warsaw, where his father was a musician at a Jewish Theatre. Already in childhood he played there himself, simultaneously studying the piano at the Conservatory. In 1939 he fled from the Nazis and left Poland. In Minsk he studied composition with Vassily Zolotaryov until 1941 when he had to escape once more, to Tashkent in Uzbekistan. There he married Natalya Vovsi, the daughter of the grand Jewish actor Solomon Michoels, who had been murdered by the secret police in 1948. The present Piano Trio is dedicated to her. In 1943 with the help of Shostakovich the couple moved to Moscow, where Weinberg lived until his death in 1996.

The tragedy of war, of the Jews and of his own life - flight, the murder of his parents and sister by the Nazis and of his father-in-law by the Stalinist regime - are reflected in many works by Weinberg. Weinberg was a highly gifted pianist and an extremely prolific composer, who had mastered every musical form, genre and style from film music to tragic operas, from a simple melody with an undemanding accompaniment to the most complicated twelve-tone music. Weinberg used elements of Jewish, Polish, Russian, and Moldavian folklore expertly and in a careful and always balanced way. The most excellent musicians of the Soviet Union performed Weinberg's works enthusiastically. Today his numerous chamber music works are enjoying a steadily growing international popularity.

Dmitri Shostakovich valued Weinberg as one of the foremost Soviet composers; friendship and mutual respect were characteristic of their relationship, which was marked by their being on the same wavelength in questions of intellect, composition and the piano. In fact they showed each other every new composition.

The Piano Trio op. 24 was written in 1945. During his first years in the USSR Weinberg composed a large number of works for piano with or without other instruments. In this way he could participate as a pianist himself. This was the case when the present work was premiered at the Small Hall of the Moscow Conservatory on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1947; the other players were two members of the famous Beethoven Quartet. Dmitri Tsyganov (violin) and Sergei Shirinsky (cello). At that time Soviet composers had been able to enjoy a certain artistic freedom in view of the joint war efforts. The vitality in Weinberg's trio is correspondingly genuine, without any concession to the Socialist Realism, preferred by the leadership.

Programme notes by Peermusic (Germany) GmbH

Born in Ayrshire in 1991, **Michael Foyle** gave his concerto debut in Edinburgh Festival Theatre aged eight. He went on to win the BBC Young Musician of the Year Tabor Award 2008, the Royal Overseas League String Competition 2013, and The Netherlands Violin Competition 2016. His acclaimed duo with pianist Maksim Stsura won the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Competition 2015 and the Salieri-Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition. They now perform widely as City Music Foundation, Park Lane Group, Kirkman Concert Society and Making Music Young Concert artists.

In addition to his solo and chamber performances, Michael is engaged this season as Guest-Leader of BBC Symphony Orchestra, and as Professor of Violin at Royal Academy of Music. Upon graduating from the Academy in 2015, he was awarded the Regency Award for Excellence and the Roth Prize for the highest violin mark of the year. His studies with Maureen Smith and Daniel Rowland were complemented by participation in masterclasses given by Olivier Charlier, James Ehnes and Maxim Vengerov. He completed his studies with a Certificate of Performance degree with Pavel Vernikov at the Vienna Konservatorium. Michael plays a Gennaro Gagliano violin (Naples, 1755) on loan from the Dutch Musical Instruments Foundation.

French-American cellist **Raphael Lang** studied at the National Regional Conservatory of Paris with Marc Coppey, Raphael Pidoux and Erwan Faure from a very young age. After having graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in 2013 under David Strange, he then completed his Masters degree with distinction with Mats Lidstrom. He has participated in masterclasses with Truls Mork, Raphael Wallfisch, Robert Cohen, Colin Carr, David Finckel, Christoph Henkel and Valter Despalj. He has been the Principal cello of the Royal Academy Sainsbury Soloists since 2012, and has led the cello section in all the other various orchestras.

As a developing orchestral musician, he has performed with the LSO as part of their String Experience Scheme and has played with the Britten Sinfonia. He has been a full member of the European Union Youth Orchestra since 2013. He also frequently performs in the USA as a soloist and chamber musician.

In 2008 he was a finalist in the Competition Jeunes Talents in Paris. At the Royal Academy, he is the winner of the May Mukle Prize 2011, the David Martin/Florence Hooton Prize 2012, the Wolfe Wolfsohn Prize 2014, and has received the Robert Alva Memorial Prize, the Ruth Waddell Fund Award and the Sir Peter Halling Prize. He was designated a Leverhulme Mentor for the year 2012/2013. Raphael is grateful towards the Shoresh Charitable Trust for generously supporting him during his postgraduate studies.

During the summer of 2016, he was leading the cello section of the Verbier Festival Orchestra, and he is now a regular player in some of the best English orchestras.

German-American pianist **Hannah Harnest** studied at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris, the Royal College of Music (MMus Solo Piano) and Royal Academy of Music in London (MA in piano accompaniment, Dip RAM and Christian Carpenter for highest Distinction), and at the London School of Economics (MSc in Cultural Sociology). Her mentors have included Malcolm Martineau, Michael Dussek, Ian Brown, Roger Vignoles, Menahem Pressler, Gordon Fergus-Thompson, Yonty Solomon, Émile Naoumoff, Olivier Gardon, Robert Levin, Ani Schnarch, and Levon Chilingirian. As a soloist, Hannah has played with orchestras in Germany, Hungary, France, and Italy, giving performances in the Dohnányi Synagogue in Budapest, the Herkules Concert Hall in Munich, the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Turin, and in the great auditorium of the UNESCO in Paris. As a chamber music partner and vocal accompanist, she has appeared at St. Martin in the Fields, the Wigmore Hall, Steinway Hall, the National Gallery, and St James's Piccadilly in London, and in the Philharmonic Hall in Munich (concert broadcast live by the Bavarian State Radio – BR), and in the Forchheim Auditorium of the Center for Jewish History in New York.

Hannah was named a Britten-Pears-Young Artist 2016 (masterclasses with Bernarda Fink and Thomas Quasthoff within the Aldeburgh Festival), and a 'Young Steinway Artist' in 2009.

Invitations to international competitions included the ARD Competition 2013 in Munich (piano trio), the Kohn Foundation/Wigmore Hall Song Competition 2015 in London, the John Kerr English Song competition, and 'Das Lied' 2017 in Heidelberg.

Hannah is currently working as an instrumental and vocal coach in the music department of the University of Edinburgh.