
CONCERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Spring - Summer 2016

Tuesday 19 January 2016

1.10pm

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church

The Cantilena Festival Piano Trio

Scott Mitchell · piano

Angus Ramsay · violin

Sarah Harrington · cello

Programme of work by BEETHOVEN



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

Piano Trio in Bb major Op.97 'Archduke'

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

- (i) Allegro moderato
- (ii) Scherzo. Allegro
- (iii) Andante cantabile ma pero con moto
- (iv) Allegro moderato

The Trio was completed in March 1811 and the designation of 'Archduke' is derived from Beethoven's dedication to his pupil, the Archduke Rudolph of Austria.

The Trio is the largest, intellectually most profound and musically most valuable of Beethoven's compositions of this kind. In Beethoven's chamber work, trios figure much less prominently than piano sonatas or string quartets and his intention was to give them their original status of compositions for family-type recreational music-making.

The 'Archduke' Trio clearly bears the stamp of the time when it was written, a difficult time for Beethoven, filled with anguish and this can be heard, present in the Trio in the form of expressive dramatic waves and accents.

The basic plan of the four-movement composition still keeps to the traditional formal structure. A slowly mounting inner tension and a dialectical - often contradictory relationship between the motifs and other tonal and dynamic elements. The Scherzo is built on the contrast between the merry folk-tune principal part and the trio with its creeping semitones melody reminiscent of the 'Pizzaro' motif from *Fidelio*.

Both tendencies are then applied to the course of the slow movement variations and in the concluding Rondo, vigorous with folk-type colouring and rich in dramatic accents. All these aspects define the Trio's content which is basically the movement of dark shadows emerging into light, a concept always so characteristic in Beethoven's works.

S.M.

The Cantilena Festival Piano Trio take their name from the Cantilena Festival which is held annually on the Hebridean island of Islay. Each July, professional musicians and students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland bring their unique sound of chamber music to residents and visitors.

Scott Mitchell is a senior staff accompanist and chamber music coach at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow where he also taught piano in the Junior Department. He performs regularly throughout Britain and has recently recorded Dave Heath's Piano Concerto with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

Angus Ramsay studied under the celebrated violinist Max Rostal at the Music Conservatoire in Bern, Switzerland. Throughout the last 35 years, he has performed both as a soloist and as part of many of the most respected and well-known orchestras and chamber music groups in the UK and Europe. He is Artistic Director of The Music Parlour, teaches extensively throughout Scotland and has also spent his career as a principal player in the orchestra of Scottish Opera.

Sarah Harrington is an active member of the Scottish Opera Orchestra as well as being a busy freelance player performing in chamber and ensemble groups around Scotland. After studying cello at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Sarah freelanced with many Orchestras including English Chamber Orchestra, Glyndebourne Touring Opera and Bournemouth Symphony until moving back to Scotland in 1998. Sarah greatly enjoys performing in Chamber groups and regularly performs with the Edington Ensemble.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:

Friday 22 January

1.10pm

Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place

Peter Backhouse (organ)

Music by CLERAMBAULT, PACHELBEL, MESSIAEN, BUXTEHUDE and DUBOIS.

Admission Free

Saturday 23 January

8.00pm

Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square

The Michael Shea Scholarship Recital

in association with Schola Cantorum of Edinburgh

Paul Grant (baritone) and Stuart Hope (piano)

Music by RAVEL, KEEL, SCHUBERT and TOSTI.

£10 /£5 Tickets available on the door

Tuesday 26 January

1.10pm

Methodist Church, Nicolson Square

Alec Frank-Gemmill (horn) and Alasdair Beatson (piano)

BEETHOVEN Horn Sonata

JOHN CASKEN Serpents of Wisdom

SCHUMANN Adagio and Allegro

Admission Free

Friday 29 January

1.10pm

Playfair Library Hall, Old College, South Bridge

Laura Sergeant (cello) and Ian Watt (guitar)

Music by VIVALDI, SIMPSON, VILLA-LOBOS, GNATTALI,

SMITH-BRINDLE and SQUIRE.

Admission Free