

Delphi Trio



"The energy was contagious and the way in which each performer communicated with the others was a veritable lesson in ensemble playing . . . Throughout the evening these three expressive musicians, who first got together as students at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, performed with confidence, precision and a masterful ability to capture the subtle expressions in a wide variety of music." —Heather Morris, *Peninsula Reviews*

"One of my most pleasurable commissions recently has been a piano trio, asked for by a young, up-and-coming group, the Delphi, whom I first heard in concert a few years ago; the trio's maturity of tone and unusual expressivity were a standout, and I wrote the piece with delight. I have heard them play it,

and already they have realized the new piece exquisitely. I find the Delphi Trio shows the potential of great depth in future years in whatever they play." —William Bolcom, *composer*

". . . Delphi captured those evocative qualities that one would associate with the best of lyric poetry."

—Stephen Smoliar, *San Francisco Examiner*

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BIO

Praised for “spot-on ensemble playing and a beautifully blended sound” (San Francisco Classical Voice) and their “rich, committed string tone, dazzling pianism, rhythmic flexibility, and risky tempi” (Sarasota Herald Tribune), the Delphi Trio has become a powerfully eloquent voice in the world of chamber music.

Prizewinners of the 2015 Orlando Concours in the Netherlands, the Delphi Trio has performed in Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Canada, and across the United States. Venues of note include the Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington DC), the Green Center (Sonoma CA), the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival (Detroit area, MI), and others. The trio’s debut album, *Triptych*, has been praised by *Classical Music Daily* as “an invigorating mixture of past and present, brilliantly executed and sumptuously recorded, which is truly worth investigating.” Their performance of Brahms was described by Gramophone as “completely at one with Brahms’ concentrated writing.”

The Delphi Trio is grounded in the immensely rich classic repertoire for piano trio and is committed to the exploration of its deep, lasting meaning for performers and audience alike. The Trio sees contemporary music as a natural extension of the standard repertoire and is therefore dedicated to the music of our time. Delphi has given acclaimed world premieres of William Bolcom’s *Piano Trio* (2014), Max Stoffregen’s *Coyote Plan* (2013), and Sahba Aminikia’s *Deltangi-ha* (2012) and *Shab o Meh* (2014). The Trio will be premiering a new triple concerto by Clarice Assad in the 2020-21 season.

The Delphi Trio believes in the power of music to create community and social change. They curate the Practice Project, a social media group dedicated to fostering community, openness, and vulnerability among both professional and amateur artists. As part of the Delphi Prison Project, they bring music to incarcerated individuals with the goal of encouraging emotional self-knowledge and self-expression through art.

Violinist Liana Berube, cellist Tanya Tomkins, and pianist Allegra Chapman are based in the San Francisco Bay Area.



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2020-2021 PROGRAMS

Healing Ground

Pierre Jalbert (b. 1967) – Trio No. 1 (1998)

Robert Schumann – Trio in G minor, Op. 110

Intermission

Dvořák – Trio in F minor, Op. 65

Grief is an inevitable and integral part of the human experience. The composers in this concert face grief, loss, and mortality head on. In three totally different and inspiring works, they resolve the biggest universal struggle to find a place of transcendence. From the human life cycle and societal suffering in Pierre Jalbert's Trio No. 1, to facing the decline of one's own mental health in Robert Schumann's Third Piano Trio, to mourning the loss of a parent in Dvorak's Trio in F minor, this program presents an ultimately uplifting meditation on different forms of grief, healing, and renewal.

Music, She Wrote (Alt. Title: Nevertheless, She Persisted)

Lili Boulanger – D'un Matin de Printemps

Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn) – Trio in D minor, Op. 11

Gabriela Frank (b. 1972) – Four Folk Songs

Intermission

Clara Schumann – Trio in G minor, Op. 17

For centuries, women composers faced not only a remarkable lack of societal and personal support, but outright discouragement; even women who were raised with a high level of musical education were often forbidden from continuing to publish their works once grown and married. This program showcases some revelatory music of two of the most well-known women composers of the Romantic era, Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn) and Clara Schumann who persevered and even flourished against all odds. The expressive depth of Lili Boulanger and the lively and colorful music of noted contemporary composer Gabriela Frank bring us through the 20th century to the present, celebrating the amazing progress and freedom women now enjoy.

In the Giant's Shadow

Robert Schumann – Fantasiestücke, Op. 88

Brahms – Trio in C minor, Op. 101

Intermission

Beethoven – Trio in B-Flat Major, Op. 97, "Archduke"

Ludwig van Beethoven is a towering figure in the world of art. While his disruptive, self-assured approach is to this day influential and inspirational to artists of many disciplines, he has been an intimidating figure to follow for those composers in his wake. The iconic Romantic composers Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms both looked up to Beethoven as an artistic ideal, simultaneously wondrous and terrifying, but felt it was impossible to live up to the example set by such a colossus. This program, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth, includes Beethoven's Trio in B-flat, Op. 97, "Archduke," and explores the relationship between these mighty composers and their music.



ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

Masterclasses and Chamber Music Coachings, and Private Lessons

The Delphi Trio believe strongly in the value and importance of sharing their knowledge, experience, and love for music with others through teaching. The trio emphasizes the essential communicative aspect of chamber music and an approach to interpretation based on the unity of the score rather than the separation of its parts.

Having worked with students of all ages and levels of experience, the trio has become known for their inspiring chamber music workshops and master classes around the country.

Practice Clinic

Most musicians grow up learning the physicality of how to practice, but music education often neglects our individual relationships with our instruments and our practice psychology. The Delphi Trio draws on its extensive research from the Practice Project to bring this clinic on practice and rehearsal to students, professionals, and amateur musicians alike. The trio has learned from experience that the best performances come from physically and emotionally healthy artists, and they encourage participants in this clinic to seek positive relationships with themselves and their colleagues throughout the practice and rehearsal process. Emphasis is placed on self-awareness, asking questions, and open artistic exploration.

Panel Discussion (also available as Post-Concert Chat)

In this offering, the Delphi Trio invites audience members into discussion about different aspects of artistic life. Drawing on the Trio's individual experiences and their research from the Practice Project, topics can include commissioning new compositions, getting an ensemble off the ground, rehearsal technique, practice and performance psychology, artistic philosophy, life as a chamber musician, fundraising and the grant application process, the importance of trust within an ensemble, and more. Areas of discussion will be tailored to specific audiences, and listeners are encouraged both to ask questions and participate in the conversation with the Trio. This offering is available as a separate event or as an informal post-concert chat.

