

Musical Program

Horatio Parker (1863-1919)

Suite for Piano Trio in A Major, Op. 35

- I. Prelude
- II. Tempo di Minuetto
- III. Romance
- IV. Finale

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Andante con moto, EG 116

Mariano Perelló (1886-1960)

Tres Impresiones

- I. Pensando en Albéniz (Poco allegro)
- II. Capricho Andaluz (Allegro)
- III. Escenas Gitana (Allegro)

INTERMISSION

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Piano Trio No. 2 in e minor, Op. 67

- I. Andante
- II. Allegro con brio
- III. Largo
- IV. Allegretto

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The Placitas Artists Series

Presents

The Hermitage Piano Trio

Sunday, October 20, 2024



Misha Keylin, violin

Sergey Antonov, cello

Ilya Kazantsev, piano

Concert generously sponsored by

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Notes On Today's Concert

Horatio Parker was an American composer, organist, and educator born in Auburndale, Massachusetts, where his first teacher was his mother. Among his later teachers, in Boston, was George Whitefield Chadwick. Parker completed his music studies at the Royal Music School in Munich. Returning to the U.S., he worked as a church organist and as a teacher in New York before being awarded a professorship at Yale in 1893. In 1904, he was promoted to dean of music. Among his Yale students was Charles Ives. Parker's dozens of compositions include only four works for chamber ensembles.

Today's piece was composed in 1904. According to the current publisher of the sheet music, Edition Silvertrust, "the *Suite for Piano Trio* clearly harks back to that popular in the Baroque era, as it follows the format of a Bach dance suite, but its style is that of the Romantic era and not the Baroque." The key term for the trio's style seems to be a sense of "yearning," with the mention of "the long-lined yearning string melodies" in the first movement and a "lush and yearning" main section in the third movement.

Edvard Grieg was a Norwegian composer and pianist who incorporated the folk music of his home country into much of his music. A leading Romantic era composer, he is probably most widely known today for his incidental music for Henrik Ibsen's play *Peer Gynt* and his *Holberg Suite*.

Edition Silvertrust is the current publisher of the Grieg piece we will hear today. They tell us that it is the only completed movement of an unfinished piano trio that Grieg's colleague, Julius Röntgen, discovered after the composer's death. "It is a beautiful piece and complete in order," Röntgen commented. "What solemnity it conveys. Even in the major mode, it retains its mournful character and then so beautifully develops its full power. It can stand by itself and does not at all give the impression of being a fragment, as it constitutes a perfect entity in itself." The publisher's description continues: "Using a single powerful theme of just six notes, Grieg introduced variety by changing the key, harmony, rhythm, tempo, instrumentation, and texture, but not the theme. The theme is also fragmented into motifs during a very dramatic part of the development which then leads to a powerful climax."

Mariano Perelló was a Catalán violinist and pianist, best known in his day as a founder of the Trio Barcelona. The ensemble, founded in 1911, featured Perelló on violin, Joaquim Pere Marés i Gribbin on cello, and Ricard Vives on piano. For decades the trio toured extensively throughout Spain, the rest of Europe, and South America until a joint condition in Perelló's left hand forced him to retire from performing.

Perelló dedicated his *Tres Impresiones* to his two trio colleagues, but it was also a tribute to their mentor, famed composer Isaac Albéniz, according to Victor and Marina A. Ledin, producers of the Hermitage Piano Trio's 2023 album, *Spanish Impressions*. According to their album notes, "The opening, *Pensando en Albéniz* (Thinking of Albéniz), is a lovely channeling of Albéniz's musical style."

Notes (Continued)

They go on to say, "*Capricho Andaluz*, which follows, is a whimsical, improvisatory, and lively work in Andalusian folk style." And the third movement, *Escena Gitana* is "...not simply an impression of a specific dance, [but] an evocation of gypsies from Granada—their colors, costumes, hats, hair, shawls, gestures and customs."

Russian composer **Dmitri Shostakovich** was a major force of 20th century classical music. He completed his first symphony, his graduation piece at the Petrograd Conservatory, at the age of 19. That work received immediate international acclaim, and he went on to produce dozens of orchestral, chamber, and solo compositions. But his reputation did not protect him from condemnation by the Soviet government in the 1930s and 1940s. At one point, Shostakovich was forced to publicly recant in the face of accusations that his music represented "formalistic perversions and anti-democratic tendencies in music."

In album notes by pianist Emanuel Ax, who recorded today's work with violinist Isaac Stern and cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 1987, we learn that many of Shostakovich's later compositions "were full of anguish, sadness, and resignation ... Surely, both this work [from 1944] and the song cycle *From Jewish Folk Poetry* are acts of mourning for the tragedy of the Jews in the Soviet Union." But, Ax continues, "Like all great artists, Shostakovich was able to transform his reactions to specific acts of suffering into art works that are full of universal meaning. This trio stands on its own as a purely musical entity and does not need outside facts to fortify its impact."

[Above notes compiled by Jay Rodman from sources mentioned above and from Wikipedia.]

About The Hermitage Piano Trio

Now entering their second decade, the United States-based Hermitage Piano Trio has solidified its place as one of the world's leading piano trios. A rarity in the chamber music world, this elite Trio brings together three accomplished soloists in their own right. An established soloist, violinist Misha Keylin has performed in forty-five countries spanning five continents. He has captured special attention with his world-premiere CD series, released by Naxos, of Henri Vieuxtemps seven violin concertos and showpieces. Hailed as "a brilliant cellist" by the legendary Mstislav Rostropovich, Sergey Antonov went on to prove his mentor's proclamation when he became one of the youngest cellists ever awarded the gold medal at the world's premier musical contest, the quadrennial International Tchaikovsky Competition. Antonov's entry into this elite stratum of sought-after classical artists has already placed him on stages at world-renowned venues from Russia's Great Hall at the Moscow Conservatory to Suntory Hall in Tokyo. And pianist Ilya Kazantsev, praised by The Washington Post as "virtually flawless," has performed as a recitalist and a soloist with orchestras in Russia, Canada, Europe, and the United States.

Exhibit One Artists

Judith Roderick

"We all live on this beautiful, diverse, resilient planet. It is difficult to watch what we humans are doing to each other and to the Earth. The focus of my Art is to illustrate and appreciate some of the richness and beauty that still abounds here."

Gail Sacharczuk

"My art is a reflection of my love for pastel painting, emphasizing expressive mark-making in a wide array of subject matter. Portraiture, urban scenes, and natural landscapes are favorite themes, with structural elements a dominant visual presence."

Nancy Schrock

"Since moving to Placitas in 2019, I have been inspired by its community of artists. With my artwork, I try to capture something fascinating but fleeting like images, ideas, or feelings, so I can give those to you, the viewer."

Kay Naranjo

"What a joy to have found a creative outlet that utilizes my "accounting brain" in my new-found retirement. I look at each rock with joy know that the skills used throughout my career are neatly placed on each and every rock."

Art On Exhibit
9/20/2024 - 10/31/2024



Gail Sacharczuk
Soft Pastel on Paper



Judith Roderick
Hand-Painted Silk Art Quilts



Kay Naranjo
Hand-Painted New Mexico Rocks



Nancy Schrock
Pastel & Colored Pencil