

# Gould Piano Trio

Wednesday 26th November 7.30pm,  
Firth Hall

PERFORMANCE  
VENUES  
CONCERTS

**Johannes Brahms** - Piano Trio No. 3 in C Minor, op. 101

**James MacMillan** - 14 Little Pictures for Piano Trio

INTERVAL

**Ludwig van Beethoven** - Piano Trio No. 2 in E Flat Major, op. 70

## Gould Piano Trio

"The only comparison that comes to mind is the old Beaux Arts Trio; the combination of jeweler-like precision and a musical fire that ignites from the first bar" - The Washington Post

Since their launch into the spotlight after winning first prize at the Melbourne Chamber Music Competition, the Gould Piano Trio has enjoyed an extensive career at the forefront of the international chamber music scene for over 25 years. The trio combine popular masterpieces of the repertoire by composers such as Dvořák, Mendelssohn, Hummel and Brahms with new and contemporary music, often commissioning young or emerging composers.

**Lucy Gould** is a violinist who studied at the Royal Academy of Music and Indiana University, Bloomington. Aside from her performances in the Gould Piano Trio, she regularly performs alongside orchestras including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, CBSO, BBC Philharmonic and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and is a teacher at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

**Richard Lester** is a leading chamber-musician, solo cellist, orchestral principal and renowned teacher at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has played with ensembles ranging from the Florestan Trio and the London Haydn Quartet to the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, in which he has held the principal cello position since 1989.

**Benjamin Frith** is an award-winning pianist, and has performed both as a soloist and alongside world-renowned orchestras such as IPO, Warsaw Philharmonic and the Hallé. He is the founding member of the Frith Piano Quartet, and has also performed with the Elias, Emperor, Endellion, Chilingarian, Wihan and Dante quartets. He has also created best-selling solo albums such as his performance of Shumann's *Davidsbundler*.

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## Johannes Brahms - Piano Trio No. 3 in C Minor, op.101

I - *Allegro energico*

II - *Presto non assai*

III - *Andante grazioso*

IV - *Allegro molto*

Johannes Brahms was a prodigious composer born in Hamburg in 1833. His work is often noted for its unique blend of Classical form and Romantic emotionality, and was famously championed by Robert Schumann in an article pivotal to his career in 1853. Like many other composers of the time, Brahms felt he was unable to live up to the legacy of the late Ludwig van Beethoven, and destroyed many of his early works (**Classical Music | BBC Music Magazine**).

Brahms's Piano Trio No. 3 was written in 1886 during his time in Switzerland. The first movement is a lively sonata form, in which Brahms builds upon the opening three-note figure to create a dramatic opening to the piece. The subsequent movements continue to feature this opening theme, expanding it in an astonishing variety of ways, and experimenting with the conversational possibilities of a small instrumental ensemble (**LA Phil**).

## James MacMillan - 14 Little Pictures for Piano Trio

Sir James MacMillan (b. 1959) is a Scottish composer and conductor, who has worked alongside orchestras ranging from the BBC Philharmonic to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Netherlands Radio Chamber Philharmonic. His work has been performed in established concert venues around the globe, as well as at the BBC Proms (**The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**).

*14 Little Pictures* for Piano Trio is a set of 14 miniatures woven together to create one through-composed work. The piece explores the different voices of the piano trio, highlighting players at different points throughout the piece. It also features moments of solos and duos within, further exploring the relationships between each of the instruments (**Hal Leonard**).

## Ludwig van Beethoven - Piano Trio No. 2 in E-Flat Major, op. 70

I - *Poco sostenuto - Allegro ma non troppo*

II - *Allegretto*

III - *Allegretto ma non troppo*

IV - *Finale: Allegro*

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was one of the most influential composers in history, his work defining the Classical and Romantic periods of Western Classical music. After having been brought up in Bonn, Germany and tutored by his father, Beethoven moved to Vienna, the musical capital of Europe, to pursue a career as a composer. It was here that he was tutored by Joseph Haydn, and that he wrote many of his most famous works (**lvbeethoven**).

Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-Flat Major is one of his most subtle and mellow chamber music compositions. It is seemingly inspired by Haydn's 'Drumroll' Symphony, similarly in E-Flat and in 6/8 time. The piece opens with a slow, intimate introduction before opening out into the more lively movements that follow.

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## Coming Soon:

### New Music Ensemble

**Wednesday 3rd December - 6:15pm**

**Free**

**Mappin Hall**

A rotating cast of extremely talented musicians.

New Music Ensemble perform pieces from the cutting edge of composition, often using experimental techniques and approaches.

Based in the University of Sheffield Music Department, and often performing compositions by their peers and members, the ensemble regularly perform in events across the city and on campus.

### Maria Stratigou

**Thursday 4th December- 5:45pm**

**Free**

**Firth Hall**

“A pianist who connects with the music; therefore, a musician.” - Norman Beedie

Dr Maria Stratigou studied at the Conservatory of Athens, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Royal Northern College of Music, where she completed her PhD Performance Aspects of Louise Farrenc's Piano Études, being a scholar of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit foundation, the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership and the RNCM. She is currently a teaching associate (Performance) and piano professor at the University of Sheffield and a University Practitioner (Piano) at the University of Huddersfield. Stratigou has given lecture-recitals and paper presentations at numerous international conferences, and in February 2020 she organised the conference Musical Women in Europe in the Long Nineteenth Century at the RNCM.

#### **Programme:**

L.v. Beethoven: 32 Variations in C minor

L. Farrenc: Air Russe Varié Op. 17

S. Bortkiewicz: Esquisses de Crimée, Op. 8 No. 3, Walks in Alupka

*I. Oriental Idyll – Allegretto in E minor*

*II. Chaos – Allegro molto tempestoso in C minor*

N. Medtner: From the Second Cycle of Forgotten Melodies, Op. 39, No. 5, Sonata Tragica