

Saturday 6th July 2024 at 20:00

Trio con Brio Copenhagen

Soo-Jin Hong, violin – Soo-Kyung Hong, cello -Jens Elvekjær, piano



Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770 – 1827)

Piano trio in D Major Op. 70/1 "Geister"
(1808), 27'

- I. *Allegro vivace e con brio*
- II. *Largo assai ed espressivo*
- III. *Presto*

Dmitri SJOSTAKOVITJ (1906 – 1975)

Piano trio in E minor Op. 67, 28'

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

Bent SØRENSEN (f. 1958)

Piano Trio No. 3 "Masquerade" (2023), 19'
Dedicated to Trio con Brio Copenhagen (Danish premiere)

--- INTERMISSION ---

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15:30 Adèle Charvet, mezzosoprano and Florian Caroubi, piano

20:00 Trio con Brio Copenhagen 25 years

22:30 Alon Sariel, mandolin



About the music

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827): Piano Trio No. 5, Opus 70 No. 1 "Ghost" (1808)

In 1842, composer Carl Czerny claimed that the second movement of Beethoven's Piano Trio Opus 70 No. 1 reminded him of the scene in Shakespeare's Hamlet where the spirit of his father appears. Since then, the piano trio has been called Geister Trio, the Ghost Trio.

Whether Beethoven himself was thinking about ghosts and spirits when he composed it is unknown. But it is certain that it is one of the most spiritual pieces Beethoven ever wrote. With its spherical intensity and dramatic tension, the movement has a direct effect on our imagination. It is flanked by two fast movements. Determined and uncompromising, as only Beethoven could write them.

The Piano Trio dates from 1808 and is Beethoven's first serious endeavour in the genre since the first piano trios from 1794. And it stands as a milestone in his oeuvre. Because it marks the transition from his "heroic period" to the late style: Deafness, inwardness, fragility and swooning exaltation begin to characterise the music. And if you listen to the much later piano trios of Schumann and Brahms, there is no doubt that they owe much to Beethoven's Geiser Trio.

Bent Sørensen (b. 1958): Piano trio no. 3 "Masquerade" (2023) (Danish premiere)

Composer Bent Sørensen and the piano trio Trio con Brio Copenhagen are a power couple in Danish musical life. In 2007, Bent Sørensen composed his first piano trio, *Phantasmagoria*, for Trio con Brio Copenhagen. Piano Trio No. 3 was also written directly for the three Danish musicians. First performed in Berlin in May and now played for the first time in Denmark. Bent Sørensen himself writes about the work:

The title "Masquerade" refers to the fact that all five movements of the work are traces of existing music. Mainly by myself and mainly from the two works I have already composed for Trio con Brio Copenhagen. But the tracks are covered with new masks of new music.

The first movement is a kind of prelude. It is a gentle reflection of Bach, Schumann and myself, but is soon covered by fast music. The second movement is a barcarole with variations. The last three movements can be seen as a waltz, a slow chorale and - finally - a rumba.

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975): Piano trio no. 2 in E minor, Opus 67 (1944)

Life was hell for Shostakovich in 1944. World War II was raging, Stalin tyrannised Russia's artists, and Shostakovich's close friend Sollertinsky died suddenly, aged just 41. Shostakovich captured the powerlessness, fear and desperation in his Piano Trio No. 2, which he dedicated to his deceased friend.

The pain is expressed from the first note. The dark cello plays a mournful melody in an unnaturally bright overtone register. The violin imitates in an equally unnaturally deep register, and the piano sneaks in with a basement-dark bottom. It's as if the instruments are turning themselves inside out.

The second movement is like a warlike bombardment. The two string instruments try to hold together against the aggressive attack of the piano. Later, the roles are reversed. The symbolism is clear. Discord and discord on both the inner and outer lines.

In the third movement, the loss is a reality. Eight fateful piano chords open in lonely majesty. Above them, the strings unfold an elegiac, resigned melody that is like a funeral march where hope never gets a chance. It is a poignant expression of Shostakovich's unbearable grief.

The famous final movement is based on a catchy Jewish theme that begins quietly and gradually builds to a boisterous energy. As always with Shostakovich, the musical moral is ambiguous. The Russian regime also had anti-Semitic tendencies during World War 2. World War II. Is the finale a Jewish declaration of support? An insistence on popular joy? Or a musical train wreck that proves that no human being can escape the evil of the world?

Mathias Hammer

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Trio con Brio Copenhagen

Recognized as one of the world's finest piano ensembles, the Trio con Brio Copenhagen's multifaceted members are not only performing artists who tour extensively, but also esteemed recording artists, artistic directors and educators. The Trio appears regularly at the world's leading venues and concert series, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall, Berlin's Pierre Boulez-Saal, the Concertgebouw and many more. Trio con Brio is a recipient of the Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Award, one of Denmark's most prestigious prizes.

Trio con Brio Copenhagen is a fusion of two overlapping "musical pairs:" two sisters, violinist Soo-Jin Hong and cellist Soo-Kyung Hong, are from South Korea; pianist Jens Elvekjaer, Soo-Kyung's spouse, is from Denmark. Founded at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna in 1999, the Trio is now based in Copenhagen and is recognized for its exceptional musicianship, fresh approach to the core repertoire, adventurous programming and a commitment to bringing music to young people through their highly creative concerts.

The ensemble's recordings have received tremendous critical acclaim. The latest album of Shostakovich and Arensky trios (Orchid Classics) was a *Gramophone* "Editor's Choice" and also singled out by *BBC Music Magazine* as a "Chamber Choice" of the month. The disc also just won the German Record Critics' Award ([Preis der deutschen](#)

[Schallplattenkritik](#)), and was singled out among other winning titles including the Berlin Philharmonic, Frank Peter Zimmermann, and Quatuor Ebène. An album featuring the complete Beethoven piano trios (Orchid Classics) garnered broad, enthusiastic praise from critics and fans alike with the *BBC Music Magazine* calling it "a triumph." The Trio has also recorded the work of leading Scandinavian composers, including Per Nørgård, Bent Sørensen and Sven-David Sandström, who have written works for the group.

As visionary artistic directors who are known for their insatiable curiosity, inventive programming and engaging children's concerts, Trio con Brio Copenhagen plays a vital role in the cultural life of Denmark. This season they are collaborating with leading Danish actor Søren Sætter-Lassen on their new musical production of "The Little Prince" set to open at The Royal Danish Theatre. A tour is planned the following year.

Trio con Brio Copenhagen serves as artistic directors of the annual festival, Chamber Music at Lundsgaard, and the Hellerup Chamber Music Society in Copenhagen.

Soo-Jin plays an Andrea Guarneri violin, Soo-Kyung plays a Grancino cello, and Jens is Denmark's first Steinway Artist. Both string players are endorsed by Jargar Strings and Thomastik-Infeld Vienna.

<https://www.trioconbrio.dk>



Bent Sørensen's new piano trio is commissioned by Hindsgavl Festival in collaboration with Pierre Boulez Saal, Berlin, Trio con Brio Copenhagen, Music in Pyeong Chang, Korea, Aulaseriene, Oslo and supported by Koda Kultur.

Enjoy the concert!

Please do not record or photograph during the concert.
During applause is discrete snap is fine 😊

Also, kindly ensure that any devices that can produce sound (such as clocks or mobile phones) are in silent mode.
Please note that vibration mode might still be audible.

15:30 Adèle Charvet, mezzosoprano and Florian Caroubi, piano
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