



### short bio

**P**raised for "...spot-on ensemble playing and a beautifully blended sound..." (*San Francisco Classical Voice*) and "...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 performed throughout the region to great acclaim, including a live broadcast for Dutch Radio 4. 2016-17 season highlights include the world premiere of William Bolcom's Piano Trio; an evening of solo concerti by Schumann, Bernstein, and Shostakovich with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra and Barbara Day Turner; a recording project with indie rock artist John Vanderslice and composer Max Stoffregen; the west coast premiere of Paul Juon's *Episodes Concertantes* (1912) with Michael Morgan and the Oakland Symphony; and performances throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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 Max Stoffregen's *Coyote Plan* (2013) and Sahba Aminikia's *Deltangi-ha* (2012) and *Shab o Meh* (2014), and will premiere William Bolcom's *Piano Trio* during the 2016-17 season.

The Delphi Trio believes chamber music is an ideal model for education. As chamber music faculty at the Crowden School in Berkeley, CA, the Trio regularly coaches and mentors musicians of all ages. Delphi is committed to supporting young artists as they begin their careers and has established their Emerging Artist Program to guide collegiate students through their first independent public concertizing experience. The Trio also curates the Practice Project, a social media group dedicated to fostering community, openness, and vulnerability among both professional and amateur artists.

The ensemble is built on trust and communication; to that end, each Delphi rehearsal starts in the same way - a meal, conversation, and music.

### press

"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*

"...rich and committed string tone, dazzling pianism, rhythmic flexibility and risky tempi..."

—*Richard Storm, Sarasota Herald-Tribune*

"Articulate, expressive work at the keyboard was matched by spot-on ensemble playing and a beautifully blended sound from the strings...The Delphi players brought to [Ravel's] masterpiece an impressive dynamic variety, from cataclysmic keyboard fortissimos (accompanied by frenetic bursts of string arpeggios) to ethereal pastel mists sung by softly sustained harmonics... LaDeur's assured virtuosity was complemented by first-rate string playing..." —*Loren Ludwig, San Francisco Classical Voice*

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

—*RStephen Smoliar, San Francisco Examiner*



PHOTO BY JIYANG CHEN



### program offerings

#### A FIRST FOR EVERYTHING

In this program, we explore composers' first essays in the piano trio genre. This concert opens with Beethoven's *Trio in G Major*, a work full of humor, athleticism, and genuine sentiment. With all its nods to Haydn in terms of style, the piece is that of a young man fully aware of his gifts, perhaps cognizant of the revolutionary impact of his work to come.

The program centers around William Bolcom's first substantial piano trio, written for the Delphi Trio in 2014. In the words of the composer, "My new piano trio intends to follow the great line of piano trios from the last centuries in form and mood, although the musical material is very much of our own time." Boldly romantic, poignant, and sharply etched, this trio will take its place among the great chamber music of the 21st century.

Toru Takemitsu's *Between Tides* (1993) speaks a language colored by Debussy and Messiaen, yet unique to the composer's expressive voice.

The concert concludes with Mendelssohn's first piano trio. In its endless melodic freshness, idiomatic writing for all three instruments, and virtuosity that is both ornate and essential, the d minor trio remains evergreen to performers and audiences alike.

#### Works to be performed on the "A First for Everything" program include:

Beethoven, *Piano Trio in G Major, Op. 1 No. 2*

William Bolcom, *Piano Trio* (2014)

Toru Takemitsu, *Between Tides* (1993)

Mendelssohn, *Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 49*

#### DEATH AND TRANSFIGURATION

In this program, the Delphi Trio explores the complex relationships of composers with life, death, and the afterlife. Cowell's *Trio in Nine Short Movements* was his final completed work, written at the end of an eventful yet difficult life that included time spent incarcerated.

The nine movements move between jarring dissonance to hymn-like sweetness, light-hearted jaunts to alien landscapes; the Trio

captures elusive aspects of the human experience.

At the time of composition of his *Piano Trio in G Minor, Op. 110*, Schumann was struggling with the decline of his mental health. Initially stormy, roiling, and disturbed, the trio is ultimately uplifting, reflecting the composer's hope for recovery.

Riding the high of Schumann's optimism, the *Piano Trio in E flat Major, Op. 70 No. 2* is Beethoven at his most pastoral and serene. With shades of heavenly grace shining into the work from the very opening, the work is gentle, joyous, and a perennial favorite of the Delphi Trio.

#### Works to be performed on the "Death and Transfiguration" program include:

Henry Cowell, *Piano Trio in Nine Short Movements*

Schumann, *Piano Trio in G Minor, Op. 110*

Beethoven, *Piano Trio in E flat Major, Op. 70 No. 2*

#### CARTE BLANCHE

Carte Blanche is an opportunity for the Delphi Trio to present its favorite works, styles, and musical aesthetics. The program reflects the broad range of musical interests and experience of Liana, Michelle, and Jeffrey; ranging from Italian baroque to Czech neoclassicism to Russian jazz to Bohemian folk music, this offering features both popular and lesser-known works guaranteed to delight and inspire.

#### Works to be performed on the "Carte Blanche" program include:

Vivaldi, *Trio Sonata in C Minor, RV 83*

Martinů, *Piano Trio No. 1, "Cinque pièces brèves"*

Nikolai Kapustin, *Piano Trio No. 1, Op. 86*

Dvořák, *Piano Trio no. 4 in E Minor, Op. 90 ("Dumky")*



### program offerings (cont.)

#### LES FRANÇAIS

Following the line of great French composers, the Delphi Trio presents a program featuring the trios of Saint-Saëns, Fauré, and Ravel.

Saint-Saëns' *Trio in E Minor, Op. 92* was written while traveling in Algeria in the spring of 1892. The trio embodies the composer's artistic priorities of balance, simplicity, and color, yet brims with a genuine fervor and sentiment sometimes lacking in his other works. The unconventional five movement structure forms an arch- the interior movements are supported by the dramatic pillars of the outer movements.

Fauré, a student and close friend of Saint-Saëns's, composed his only piano trio, *Op. 120*, during his last years when deafness had isolated him to a large extent from the outside world. Fauré's late works could not be mistaken for any other composer's voice – a combination of passion and quiet ecstasy.

Ravel's *Trio* (1914) is undisputed as a landmark achievement of twentieth-century music and chamber music in general. The precision with which he crafts the architecture of the work contributes to its overwhelming impact as a dramatic journey. Musical inspirations range from Basque folk dance and Malaysian poetry to the ancient-sounding Passacaglia and the chilling fanfares of World War I. Yet, the piece remains unique to Ravel in its startling juxtapositions of childlike wonder and fantasy with the atrocities of war.

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#### Works to be performed on the "Les Français" program include:

Saint-Saëns, *Piano Trio in E Minor, Op. 92*

Fauré, *Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 120*

Ravel, *Piano Trio in A Minor*



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### additional offerings

#### CONCERTO RESIDENCY

The Delphi Trio is pleased to offer this unique series of programs with orchestra, exploring the individuality and unity of the piano trio. Designed as either a three- or four-concert residency over the course of a season or festival, the members of the Delphi Trio perform solo concertos culminating in a performance of Beethoven's Triple Concerto. The following are sample programs, final repertoire to be determined in consultation with Delphi.

Program 1 – Jeffrey LaDeur, piano

One of the following:

Beethoven, *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58\**

Schumann, *Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54*

Medtner, *Piano Concerto in C Minor, Op. 50*

Program 2 – Liana Bérubé, violin and Michelle Kwon, cello

Haydn, *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Hob. VIIb/1*

Bernstein, *Serenade* (after Plato's "Symposium") for violin, string orchestra, harp, and percussion\*

Program 3 – Delphi Trio

Beethoven, *Triple Concerto, Op. 56*

\*Chamber Orchestra Scoring available

#### MASTER CLASSES AND CHAMBER MUSIC COACHINGS

Liana, Michelle, and Jeffrey believe strongly in the value and importance of sharing their knowledge, experience, and love for music with others through teaching. The Delphi 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.

#### "ROLE PLAYING" LECTURE / DEMONSTRATION

In this engaging program, Liana, Michelle, and Jeffrey share their thoughts on the dynamic music written for piano trio and the performers' approach to interpretation. The vast and rich literature for the piano trio requires the players to be able to shift roles on a dime, one moment stepping forward into the spotlight, another contributing support and energy. This program features works by Haydn, Chopin, Brahms, Cowell, and more. Praised for their unity of ensemble and ability to both

highlight and blend their sounds, the Delphi Trio's "Role Playing" lecture/demonstration offers audiences of all ages a fascinating look at chamber music through the eyes of this exceptional ensemble.

#### POST-CONCERT CHAT

The Delphi Trio offers an informal Q&A to audience members, students, faculty, and presenters interested in getting to know the ensemble and its mission. Possible topics include programming, rehearsal technique, and the importance of trust among performers of chamber music.



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