

## )(( TrioVanBeethoven

Clemens Zeilinger - Piano  
Verena Stourzh - Violin  
Franz Ortner - Cello

Why van Beethoven? Beethoven stands for independence of mind, for revolutionary ideas, for music that reaches far beyond his own time. Beethoven was a lone wolf, but at the same time the central figure to begin new traditions of composing that influenced many of his successors.

Beethoven as a symbol of the three musicians' closeness to the works of Viennese Classic, but also as a visionary and the creator of a new mode of composition - this fits in with the main mission of the *TrioVanBeethoven*: the care of the classical trio works, but also the commissioning of new compositions or crossover projects.

In conjunction with the Scottish singers *Lorna Anderson*, soprano and *Jamie MacDougall*, tenor, the *TrioVanBeethoven* places a focus on Beethoven's and Haydn's folksong arrangements in order to present this unique combination of classical music and folksong tradition to a broader public.

In its foundation year in 2011, the Trio held its debut at the renowned Festival Tage der Alten Musik in Herne (Germany). Since then, the ensemble has performed in many countries throughout Europe. They have given guest performances at the Vienna Konzerthaus, at the Brucknerfest Linz, the Festwochen Gmunden, the Haydn Festival Bruhl (DE), in London Kings Place, Glasgow and Edinburgh (GB), at the Pažaislis Music Festival in Kaunas (LT), the Haydn Biennale in Mechelen (BE), the Festival Nuova Consonanza in Rome (IT) and the Festival Imago Sloveniae in Ljubljana (SL). Since 2014, the *TrioVanBeethoven* has presented a concert series in Upper Austria (Kremsegg Castle). Highlights in 2016 have been performances at the Wiener Konzerthaus and the Brucknerhaus Linz, where the Trio played Ludwig van Beethoven's Triple Concerto. In 2017 the three musicians have been invited to perform a cycle of three concerts dedicated to Beethoven in the new „MuTh“ concert hall in Vienna. Amongst others they were guests at the Musikwochen Millstatt and the Allegro Vivo Festival and have played concerts in England, Slovakia and Iran.

This year the concert series at the MuTh in Vienna as well as at Kremsegg castle will be continued. The Trio will also appear at Kultursommer St. Paul and Klassikmusikfest Mühlviertel. Apart from the concerts in Austria they are invited to play at the International Chamber Music Festival in Esbjerg (DK), at the Festival Rencontres Musicales en Artois (FR) and in Germany, Hungary and Romania.

The ensemble has released a complete recording of Beethoven's piano trios for the renowned label *Gramola*, which in 2017 has been awarded the Ö1 Pasticcio-Prize by Austrian Classical Radio. In 2018 a CD comprising Scottish, Irish and Welsh folksong arrangements by Beethoven with *Lorna Anderson*, soprano and *Jamie MacDougall*, tenor, will be released again for the label *Gramola*.

*Clemens Zeilinger*, 2011/12 "Artist in Residence" at the Brucknerhaus Linz, ranks among Austria's leading pianists. He was the winner of the European Youth Music Competition in Antwerp and won awards at the European Chamber Music Competition in The Hague and at the Beethoven Competition in Vienna.

As a soloist he has performed with renowned orchestras such as the Orchestra of the Royal Academy in London, the Bruckner Orchestra in Linz, the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg and the Tonkünstler Orchestra of Lower Austria. He has given concerts in many European countries, in the USA and Japan as well as in Korea, Morocco, Iran and Oman.

In 2008, *Clemens Zeilinger* played all of Beethoven's piano sonatas at the Brucknerhaus in Linz, and in 2010 he presented a series of Schubert's piano works at the same venue.

He teaches at the University of Music in Vienna and at the Anton-Bruckner University in Linz.

*Verena Stourzh* was a member of the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt from 1998 to its disbanding in 2010 and has an impressive record of concert appearances in Austria and abroad: She has performed at the Konzerthaus and the Musikverein in Vienna, at the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt (annual subscription concerts), at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Stadtcasino Basel, Louvre Auditorium Paris, Kings Place London, the Cheltenham Festival, Beethovenfest Bonn, Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci, Musikverein Zagreb, Festival EuroArt Prag, International Performing Arts Center Moscow, Kiev Philharmonic, International Center of Performing Arts Beijing, Metropolitan Museum New York, Library of Congress Washington, as well as in Canada, South America, South Africa, Australia and East Asia.

As the violinist of the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt *Verena Stourzh* released complete CD-recordings of the piano trios by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert as well as the first complete recording of Haydn's 429 folksong

arrangements of Scottish and Welsh folk songs (with *Lorna Anderson*, soprano and *Jamie MacDougall*, tenor).

As a soloist and chamber musician, *Franz Ortner* acquired an international reputation at an early age. He was a prize winner of the International Brahms Competition in 2004 and at the Cello Competition „Gradus ad Parnassum“ in 2005 and was also a scholarship holder of the Lucerne Festival Academy under Pierre Boulez for two years. From 2006 to 2009 *Franz Ortner* was the principal cellist of the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra in Lisbon (Portugal) and from 2009 to 2014 he was the first cellist of the Esbjerg Ensemble in Denmark. He is frequently invited to play as principal cellist with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Le Concert Olympique, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

As a soloist he has appeared with the Bad Reichenhaller Philharmonie, the Kammerorchester Rheinland-Pfalz, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and the Musikkollegium Winterthur.

In 2010, together with the pianist Caroline Boirot, Franz Ortner released a CD with works by Brahms, Fuchs, Kirchner and Schumann and in 2011 a live CD was published with the Cello Concerto by Antonín Dvořák.

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