

NEW RELEASE INFORMATION FOR PRESS/MEDIA



Artist(s):	Petrof Piano Trio
Composer:	Lalo, Bruch & Mendelssohn
Repertoire:	Piano Trios
Catalogue No:	NI6219 [0710357621925]
Discs:	Single CD/Standard Case
UK PPD:	Full Price
UK Release Date:	8 th April 2013

Repertoire

Lalo: Piano Trio no. 1 in C minor, Op. 7; **Bruch:** Piano Trio in C minor, op. 5; **Mendelssohn:** Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 49

Édouard Lalo's (1823-1892) first piano trio in C minor Op.7 was most likely composed around 1850 when Lalo was 27.

Max Bruch (1838-1920) enjoyed a long and fruitful career as a composer, conductor and teacher. He studied with Ferdinand Hiller and his talent was recognized early on by Schumann and Ignaz Moscheles. The Piano Trio was written in 1859, when Bruch was only 19 years old and he was greatly influenced by the works of Mendelssohn. The music clearly demonstrates that even at this early stage, that Bruch was particularly fond of melodies of nobility and capable of producing great beauty of tone in his writing.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) completed his Piano Trio in D minor in 1839. The entire piece has a playful, relaxed nature, with affinity rather than conflict of contrastive themes being used. Although the piano was used as the main starting point for this composition, the other two instruments are not subordinate to it and Mendelssohn succeeded in attaining balance and unity. The first performance of the Trio was given on 1 February 1840 at Leipzig's Gewandhaus, with Mendelssohn at the piano, and his friends the violinist Ferdinand David and cellist Carl Wittmann. The composition was immediately acclaimed and its qualities acknowledged.

Performers

Martina Schulmeisterová – *piano* Jan Schulmeister – *violin* Kamil Žvak – *cello*

The **PETROF TRIO** originated from an idea of the violinist of the Whan Quartet, Jan Schulmeister, in 2009. Its members are prestigious chamber players, who bring years of concert experience and also youthful energy to their concert programmes.

In the same year that it was formed, the ensemble became the resident trio of the PETROF Company, who wanted to associate its tradition and quality with top-level concert artists. The trio's repertoire includes pieces from composers from the early classics to impressionism (Haydn, Mozart, Schumann,

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Brahms, Dvořák, Lalo, Fauré, Debussy, etc.). The ensemble also enriches its repertoire with compositions from the 20th and 21st centuries.

Jan Schulmeister was born in Moravia. He comes from a family with a musical tradition stretching more than 150 years. He became a founder member of the Wihan Quartet in 1985. In 1988, the Wihan won the Prague Spring Festival Competition and in 1990 the Quartet was awarded First Prize in the Trapani International Chamber Music Competition in Sicily. In 1991 the Wihan Quartet received both the First Prize and the Audience Prize in the London International String Quartet Competition. The foreman of the jury in the competition was Lord Menuhin and this competition launched the Quartet's international career.

Jan has recorded more than 40 CDs with the Wihan Quartet, including two complete Beethoven Quartet Cycles. He has given many concerts in Europe, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Middle and Far East Countries. In addition, he has given chamber music masterclasses in Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff and the Menuhin School in the UK. He is a visiting tutor at Trinity College of Music in London.

Martina Schulmeisterová achieved much success in competition in her earlier years. She performs regularly throughout Europe and Asia. She has been a piano professor at the P.J.Vejvanovský Conservatory in Kroměříž since 2002. She is married to Jan Schulmeister.

Kamil Žvak started playing cello at the age of six. As well as giving many chamber music concerts Kamil Žvak also performs in several European countries as a soloist. He has been a cello professor at the P.J.Vejvanovský Conservatory in Kroměříž since 2010.

Press/Media and Marketing

The CD will be fully serviced to all UK classical music press and radio. Advertising will include major appropriate music magazines and publications. For more details, and to request a review sample and/or an interview request, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.