

BBC Radio 3: Shostakovich on Strings Trio Apaches

Matthew Trusler **Violin**

Thomas Carroll **Cello**

Ashley Wass **Piano**

ARNO BABAJANIAN (1921-1983)

Trio in f-sharp minor

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)

Piano Trio No.2 in e minor, Op.67

BBC
RADIO

90 – 93FM



Fridays at One

12 February 2016





This concert will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 23 March

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ARNO BABAJANIAN (1921-1983)

Trio in f-sharp minor

- I. Largo - Allegro espressivo
- II. Andante
- III. Allegro vivace

The figure of Arno Babajanian makes a fascinating contrast to his rather better known contemporary and compatriot Dmitri Shostakovich. Why his name and his music should be so little known in the West is a mystery. In his native Armenia, Babajanina is a national hero. His home town of Yerevan in Armenia has a plaque and a statue and their concert hall is named after him. There is even a minor planet re-named 9017 Babadzhanyan.

Spotted by Aram Khachaturian at a young age as a rare musical talent, Babjanian studied in Armenia and Moscow and established himself back in Armenia where he was hugely acclaimed, writing in many genres including popular song. His popularity and fame spread to the wider USSR and he was named as a People's Artist of the Soviet Union in 1971.

This trio is considered one of his most important works and was acclaimed as such at its first performance in 1952. Full of romance, drama and melody, it also reflects his interest in Armenian folk melodies and folklore. In this respect his music has much in common with Rachmaninov and Khatchaturian and his later works show the influence of Bartok and Prokofiev.

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906-1975)

Piano Trio No.2 in e minor, Op.67

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

Shostakovich wrote his trio in 1944 with the grim realities of WWII weighing heavily on his mind. The siege of Leningrad finished in January with a death toll of over a million and a realisation of the fate of the Jews across Europe was dawning. Compounding this misery, his closest friend, the music writer Ivan Sollertinsky died. Shostakovich dedicated the work to his friend following a tradition established by Tchaikovsky in memory of Rubinstein and Rachmaninov with his Trio Elegiaque in memory of Tchaikovsky. The resulting masterpiece is a memorial to all who died at this time - a blend of bleak landscapes, oppressive rhythmic figures, beautiful melodies and ironic juxtaposition such as the inclusion of a joyous Jewish klezmer melody in the final movement.

Programme notes by Lindsay Pell, BBC

Trio Apaches

Trio Apaches, comprising three of the UK's most respected soloists, was officially formed in 2012 as the consequence of a shared desire to focus on innovative projects and challenging cross-genre collaborations, as well as to present masterworks of the trio repertoire in unfamiliar contexts.

Trio Apaches have recently recorded their first album, to be released on Orchid Classics in Autumn 2014. Very much representative of the group's intention to create projects outside the traditional realm of the piano trio, the disc features a newly commissioned transcription of Debussy's *La Mer* by Sally Beamish alongside one of Beamish's original works; her powerful setting of the Anglo Saxon poem *The Seafarer*, in which the Trio are joined by Sir Willard White in the role of narrator.

Built on a foundation of great friendship between three colleagues who have collaborated in various forms over many years, Trio Apaches have quickly been embraced on the international concert scene and are unanimously praised for the infectious joy and virtuosity of their performances and the innovative nature of their programmes. They have made numerous appearances on BBC Radio 3, most recently in a live BBC lunchtime concert from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in a recital juxtaposing Copland with Tchaikovsky.



Matthew Trusler has developed a reputation as one of Britain's leading violinists. Performing on a bow once owned by Heifetz, Trusler has been invited to perform as a recitalist and concerto soloist throughout Europe, Australia, the USA, Japan and South Africa. In the UK he has performed with major orchestras, including the BBC orchestras, the Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, City of Birmingham, Halle and Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and has appeared further afield with the Minnesota Orchestra, NDR Hanover, Helsinki Philharmonic, Deutsche Symphony Berlin, Dusseldorf Symphony Orchestra, Flanders Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic, Australian Chamber Orchestra and Johannesburg Philharmonic.

Alongside his concerto performances, Matthew has collaborated with outstanding musicians for chamber work, including Piotr Anderszewski, Lang Lang, Wayne Marshall, Martin Roscoe, Peter Donohoe, Imogen Cooper, Leonidas Kavakos, Lynn Harrell, and Joseph Silverstein. Matthew has performed recitals in leading venues around the world including the Wigmore Hall in London, the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, and the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels.

Matthew has also founded a record label, which has attracted some of the most important artists of today, and the Lenny Trusler Children's Foundation, which raises money for desperately ill babies. Matthew holds a teaching post at the Malmö Academy in Sweden.



Described by *The Strad* as a player of 'authority, passion with an unerring sense of direction, full of colour and underpinned by a clear musical intelligence', Welsh cellist **Thomas Carroll** launched his career when he won both Young Concert Artists Trust and Young Concert Artists, New York, performing in many major venues across Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and America. He has appeared as concerto soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Orchestras and London Philharmonic as well as orchestras such as the Vienna Chamber, Melbourne Symphony and Bayerischer Rundfunk. Much in demand as a chamber musician, Thomas has worked with the Belcea Quartet, Endellion Quartet, Yehudi Menuhin, Gidon Kremer, Mischa Maisky, Michael Collins, at Wigmore Hall, the Edinburgh and Cheltenham International Festivals,

among many others. His recordings include Michael Berkeley's String Quintet with the Chilingirian Quartet for Chandos and a critically acclaimed recital disc with pianist, Llyr Williams on the Orchid Classic Label. Engagements include concerts at the Louvre in Paris, Konzerthaus in Vienna, the Dubrovnik Festival, Mecklenburg Festival and The International Chamber Music Festival in Utrecht. Thomas is also in demand as a conductor, and was recently appointed Chief Conductor of the Orpheus Sinfonia.

Thomas is currently a Professor at the Royal College of Music in London and the Yehudi Menuhin School.



Ashley Wass is firmly established as one of the leading performers of his generation. Described by Gramophone Magazine as a 'thoroughbred who possesses the enviable gift to turn almost anything he plays into pure gold', he is the only British winner of the London International Piano Competition, prizewinner at the Leeds Piano Competition, and a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. Increasingly in demand on the international stage, he has performed as soloist with numerous leading ensembles, including all of the BBC orchestras, the Philharmonia, Orchestre National de Lille, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, RLPO, and under the baton of conductors such as Simon Rattle and Osmo Vanska.

Ashley is also much in demand as a chamber musician - performing regularly at many of the major European festivals, and at the Marlboro Music Festival, playing chamber music with musicians such as Mitsuko Uchida, Richard Goode and members of the Guarneri Quartet and Beaux Arts Trio. He has performed at many of the world's finest venues including Wigmore Hall, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, the Vienna Konzerthaus and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Ashley Wass is the Artistic Director of the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival. The Festival has grown from strength to strength during his tenure, with sold-out performances of challenging repertoire and broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. Ashley is currently a Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music, London, and is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Forthcoming Musical Events

Cello Masterclass with Thomas Carroll

Friday 12 February / Ledger Recital Room / 2.30pm (NB: Earlier start time than previously advertised)

Orchestra Fantastique

Friday 19 February / Stevenson Hall / 7.30pm

RCS Symphony Orchestra, Alpesh Chauhan **Conductor**

BERLIOZ Le roi Lear

DEBUSSY La mer

BERLIOZ Symphonie fantastique

Kirshbaum's Birthday Beethoven

Saturday 27 February / Stevenson Hall / 7.30pm

Ralph Kirshbaum **Cello**, Shai Vosner **Piano**

BEETHOVEN 7 Variations on Mozart's 'Bei Männern welche Lieb'

BEETHOVEN Sonata No.2 in G, Op.5

BEETHOVEN 12 Variations on 'Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen'

BEETHOVEN Sonata No.3 in A, Op.69