

Dalton Wed@7:30pm: *Live and Interactive!*

2011–12 Season

78th Concert

Wednesday 12 October 2011

Dalton Center Recital Hall

7:30 p.m.

MERLING TRIO

Renata Artman Knific, Violin

Bruce Uchimura, Cello

Susan Wiersma Uchimura, Piano

Ludwig van Beethoven
1770–1827

Piano Trio in C Minor Opus 1, Number 3

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Andante cantabile con Variazioni
- III. Minuetto: Quasi allegro
- IV. Finale: Prestissimo

Johannes Brahms
1833–1897

Piano Trio Number 2 in C Major Opus 87

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Scherzo: Presto, poco meno presto
- IV. Finale: Allegro giocoso

This performance is part of Daniel Pearl World Music Days, an annual global concert network affirming the ideals of tolerance, friendship, and our shared humanity. World Music Days is inspired by the life and work of journalist and musician Daniel Pearl. Through music, we reaffirm our conviction that humanity will triumph and harmony will prevail.



The MERLING TRIO is recognized as one of today's premier ensembles. A truly international trio, it brings together musicians from Polish, Japanese, and Dutch backgrounds. The Merling Trio has been hailed as a brilliantly distinguished group endowed with remarkable gifts of communication, magnificent precision, and an impeccable blend of sound. The trio made its New York debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1993, and was named a finalist for the Naumburg Foundation Chamber Music Award in 1994.

The Merling Trio has given numerous recitals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Members of the Trio have performed with orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, the Honolulu Symphony, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, and the South Carolina Philharmonic, under the baton of such notable conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Simon Rattle, and Christoph Eschenbach. Recent trio performances include concerts for the Lagerstrom Concerts Series at Caltech, the Texas Friends of Chamber Music Series, the Jewel Box Series in Chicago, the Charleston Chamber Music Society, Merkin Hall, and the Antioch College Professional Piano Series. The 2011–12 season will include tours of Georgia, North Carolina, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Several contemporary composers have written works for the Merling Trio, and in 1993, they commissioned and premiered C. Curtis-Smith's second piano trio. In February 1998, the trio returned to Carnegie Hall for a sold-out performance of a new work by Terry Winter-Owens, commissioned by the Merling Trio with a Commissioning Grant from the American Composers Forum. In 2003, the trio premiered Frank Proto's *Quartet for Piano and Strings* with bassist Tom Knific at St. John's Smith Square in London, England. Performances by the Merling Trio have been broadcast widely on television and radio, including WNYC, WFMT 98.7 in Chicago, Interlochen Public Radio, and Peachstate Public Radio.

In residence at the School of Music at Western Michigan University, members of the trio have also been faculty members at the Schlern International Music Festival and the ENCORE School for Strings. Renowned educators, their students hold positions in major orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the world. Festival appearances include the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Pensacola Summer Music Festival, the Skaneateles Festival, the Saugatuck Chamber Music Festival, and the Fontana Festival of Art and Music. Recent educational outreach activities include performances and master classes for the California Music Teachers Association, the Music Teachers National Association, the Hawaii International Arts and Humanities Conference, and the American String Teachers Association National Conference.

The Merling Trio has released a number of critically-acclaimed recordings. Their first CD, a collaboration with conductor Dennis Russell Davies, featured works of C. Curtis-Smith and was released by Albany Records in 1995. About the CD, Fanfare wrote, "The composer could not ask for better interpreters." Piano Trio Classics included works by Haydn, Mozart, Brahms, Schumann, and Liszt and was released by Pamplin Records in 2001. About Centaur Records' 2006 release of the trio's recording of works by Piazzolla and Proto, the American Record Guide said, "The Merlings play with a properly stylistic balance between abandon and control. This is an unusual and beautifully played program." Their most recent recording, *postcards in e*, features works of Shostakovich and Dvorak, and was issued on the MSR Classics label in 2009 to rave reviews.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer said, "The players shaped a grand interpretation, fluent in rhythm and rich in romantic feeling." The Grand Rapids Press has said, "The trio...delivered a standard of playing that is on par with some of the best known violin-cello-piano teams, captivating the audience through the immediacy and extraordinary sensitivity of its playing." The London Musical Opinion declared that the Merling Trio "made a powerful impression, with unabashed romanticism and finesse."

Visit the group at www.merlingtrio.com or Facebook, as well as watch performances on YouTube.

This concert is a Bullock Performance Institute (BPI) presentation. BPI events are made possible through the cooperation and support of several community fine arts units: the Donald P. Bullock Music Performance Institute; WMUK National Public Radio; the Western Michigan University College of Fine Arts, School of Music, and WMU's chapters of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternities.



If the fire alarm sounds, please exit the building immediately. All other emergencies will be indicated by spoken announcement within the seating area. The tornado safe area in Dalton Center is along the lockers in the brick hallway to your left as you exit to the lobby behind you. In any emergency, walk—do not run—to the nearest exit. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance. Because of legal issues, any video or audio recording of this performance is prohibited without prior consent from the School of Music. Thank you for your cooperation.