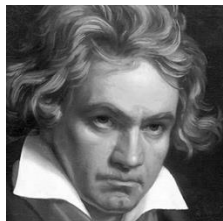


2023 Preview Notes • Week Three • Persons Auditorium

Saturday, July 29 at 8 pm



Clarinet Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 11 (1798)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born December, 1770, Bonn, Germany

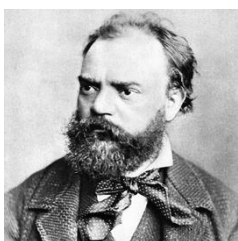
Died March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

Duration: approx. 18 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2018

This early work of Beethoven, Op. 11, is sometimes known as the “Gassenhauer Trio” as the theme and variations in the third movement originate from a popular melody that was often heard hummed or whistled in the Gassen [alleyways] around Vienna. Though clarinet as a featured chamber soloist was still relatively rare in 1797, Franz Josef Bähr, a clarinetist who performed with Beethoven, left a positive impression on him, and so the work was written with Bähr in mind. The piece begins with a sonata-form opening movement in which all three instruments take turns with the melody. The trio continues with a tender and similarly well-balanced Adagio that begins with the cello before concluding with its ebullient finale, which features the popular namesake melody in a series of nine inimitably catchy variations.

Participants: Javier Morales-Martinez, *clarinet*; Minji Kim, *cello*; Ryan McCullough, *piano*



Terzetto in C Major, Op. 74 (1887)

Antonín Dvořák

Born September 8, 1841, Nelahozeves, Bohemia

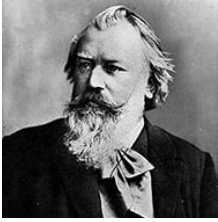
Died May 1, 1904, Prague

Duration: approx. 16 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 1997

Dvořák composed his Terzetto in C Major in under one week while living at his mother-in-law’s house. At this time, she was also renting a room to a chemistry student, Josef Kruis, who studied the violin with Jan Pelikan, a friend of Dvořák’s. The work was originally intended to be a casual kind of “hausmusik” to be played by Dvořák, Kruis, and Pelikan, which explains the unusual instrumentation of two violins and viola. Dvořák balances the instrumentation expertly, beginning with a gentle and lyrical section, then going on to implement folk styles and animated rhythms and ending with ten dark and harmonically rich variations. The surprisingly complex work ended up being too difficult for Kruis, however, and Dvořák went on to write Opus 75a, a less demanding set of four miniatures with the same instrumentation. Although the Terzetto was not able to serve its purpose for Dvořák, Kruis, and Pelikan, this charming work is now regarded as one of very few that successfully blends two violins and viola.

Participants: Randall Goosby & Daniel Phillips, *violin*; Cara Pogossian, *viola*



Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25 (1861)

Johannes Brahms

Born May 7, 1833, Hamburg, Germany

Died April 3, 1897, Vienna, Austria

Duration: approx. 40 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2014

Brahms's Piano Quartet in G Minor served as an introduction for the then twenty-nine-year-old composer to the musical elite of Vienna, notably leading to the proclamation, "This is the heir of Beethoven!" from violinist Joseph Hellmesberger after a reading with his quartet. The work is best known for its final movement, "Gypsy Rondo" (*Rondo alla Zingarese*), which displays the rousing, percussive style associated with the cross-cultural blend of Hungarian and Romani folk music (at the time, these cultures were mistakenly grouped as one through the outdated term "Gypsy", despite modern distinctions between the two cultures). The captivating finale explores Brahms's perception of "Gypsy people" as capable and fascinating musicians through his uniquely powerful integration of the Romani-Hungarian style. It also foreshadows future works of Brahms that carry this influence, such as *Hungarian Dances*. This Piano Quartet is just one of many outstanding chamber works Brahms composed but is a particular favorite at Marlboro, with this performance marking the 22nd time it has been performed here since 1953.

Participants: Evren Ozel, *piano*; Isabelle Durrenberger, *violin*; Samuel Rosenthal, *viola*; Marcy Rosen, *cello*

Sunday, July 30 at 2:30 pm



Der Hirt auf dem Felsen (1828)

Franz Schubert

Born January 31, 1797, Vienna, Austria

Died November 19, 1828, Vienna, Austria

Duration: approx. 13 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2011

Schubert wrote *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* ("The Shepherd on the Rock") in 1828 for Pauline Anna Milder-Hauptmann, one of the leading soprano singers at the time. The piece explores a range of emotion for the singer, per Milder's request. It begins with a solemn lament from a shepherd towards his lover, growing darker as the shepherd is consumed by his feelings, until the coming of spring revives his spirits. *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* has also become a staple of clarinet repertoire, featuring the instrument through various poetic interludes between verses and call-and-response phrases from the singer that evoke an echo effect. The piece was eventually performed by Milder-Hauptmann; however Schubert had already been dead for two years at the time of its premiere.

Participants: Lucy Fitz Gibbon, *soprano*; Yuhsin Galaxy Su, *clarinet*; Lydia Brown, *piano*



String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 25 (1974)

Benjamin Britten

Born November 22, 1913, Lowestoft, UK

Died December 4, 1976, Aldeburgh, UK

Duration: approx. 25 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2022

Though he had written a few compositions for string quartet earlier in life, this work served as Britten's official first numbered string quartet after a commission from Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, an American patroness. Whether the dissonant harmonies and tension integrated in the work are reflective of the times (though the piece was published in 1974, it was written before WWII) or due to Britten's decision to compose the work in a tool shed (attempting to drown out the noise of piano practicing from the home of his hosts) is left up to audience interpretation. However, it appears the unorthodox concentration strategy served Britten well. The piece was received positively; according to musicologist Peter Evans, it showed "Britten at 27 to be a master of tonal architecture with scarcely a rival on the English scene."

Participants: Stephen Kim & Scott St. John *violin*; Haesue Lee, *viola*; Chase Park, *cello*



Piano Trio in E-flat Major, D. 929 (1828)

Franz Schubert

Born January 31, 1797, Vienna, Austria

Died November 19, 1828, Vienna, Austria

Duration: approx. 42 minutes

Last Marlboro performance: 2019

This piece is one of Schubert's last completed compositions, and it was one of the last of his that he heard performed before his death. In fact, up until the performance that included the Piano Trio in E-flat Major, which took place on the first anniversary of Beethoven's death, only three of his chamber works had been publicly performed. The trio comprises four movements that are full of lyrical material—after a declamatory beginning, the trio continues to a haunting second movement (used to great effect in the soundtrack to Kubrick's *Barry Lyndon*), a polite scherzo in which the piano strings along the violin and cello in a sinuous canon, and a momentous finale. The work is considered among one of the greatest piano trios in traditional repertory, breathtakingly gigantic in length, as well as in ingenuity, passion, and detail.

Participants: Jonathan Biss, *piano*; Stephanie Zyzak, *violin*; Taeguk Mun, *cello*