

LEONORE TRIO: THE COMPLETE BEETHOVEN PIANO TRIOS KINGS PLACE



Kings Place, 90 York Way, London, N1 9AG

The Leonore Trio present the complete original works for piano trio by Beethoven, alongside those by British composers David Matthews and Huw Watkins.

As well as some of the best-known and much-loved music, the Leonore Trio will play some of Beethoven's early forays into the genre, giving a rare insight into his formative compositional processes. The cycle will also include the Kakadu Variations, often overlooked in favour of the established Canon.

David Matthews three Piano Trios span twenty years of his distinguished career and these concerts provide a rare opportunity to hear them alongside the composer that has perhaps influenced him the most. The last programme will include the Piano Trio by another leading British composer, Huw Watkins.

www.kingsplace.co.uk

www.leonoretrio.com

CONCERT PROGRAMME - MARCH-NOVEMBER 2015



Leonore Trio: The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios, Concert I

Friday, 13 March 2015 - 7:30pm / Hall One

Beethoven Piano Trio in E flat major, Op. 1 No. 1

David Matthews Piano Trio No.1, Op. 34

Beethoven Piano Trio in B flat, Op. 97 Archduke

The first concert of the Leonore Trio's cycle presents Beethoven's mighty Archduke Trio alongside Op.1, which despite the designation was not in fact Beethoven's first published composition.

David Matthews' first trio was dedicated to the writer and musician Hans Keller, of whom the second movement is intended as a portrait. It contains deliberate and humorous references to Brahms and early Schoenberg.



Leonore Trio: The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios, Concert II

Thursday, 30 April 2015 - 7:30pm / Hall One

Beethoven *Allegretto in E flat major, Hess 48*
David Matthews *Piano Trio No.2, Op. 61*
Beethoven *Piano Trio in E flat major, WoO 38*
Beethoven *Piano Trio, Op.121a Kakadu Variations*
Beethoven *Piano Trio in C minor, Op.1 No.3*

This programme explores some of the lesser-known early Beethoven Trios.

The Allegretto, dating from 1790-91, is mostly a vehicle for pianistic virtuosity, in sharp contrast to the first of Beethoven's C minor masterpieces, the Trio Op. 1 No. 3. This piece, as with all the Op. 1 Trios, seamlessly interweaves the melodic and virtuosic strengths of each instrument. The atmosphere, as with all of his great C minor works, is tense and concise.

The Kakadu Variations are another great example of Beethoven's wonderful combination of the sublime and the absurd, the tragic and lengthy G minor introduction giving way to a less than serious theme.

David Matthews' Second Piano Trio is classical in form and tonality.



Leonore Trio: The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios, Concert III

Thursday, 1 October 2015 - 7:30pm / Hall One

Beethoven *Piano Trio in B flat major, Op. 11*
David Matthews *Piano Trio No.3, Op. 97*
Beethoven *Variations in E flat major, Op. 44*
Beethoven *Piano Trio in D major, Op.70 No.1 Ghost*

The third programme of the Leonore Trio's cycle opens with one of Beethoven's wittiest creations. The B flat Trio, which also exists in a version for clarinet, and closes with a set of variations based on the Weigl's aria *Pria ch'io l'impegno*, 'Before I work, I must eat.' Only Beethoven could juxtapose the sublime and the absurd in such a perfect manner.

David Matthews' beautiful third Trio contrasts a first movement that weaves its way towards a search for tonality with an anguished, post-Mahlerian movement of tonal allusions.

The Leonore Trio close the programme with one of the most loved of the works, the *Ghost*. Although the nickname is not Beethoven's it does aptly describe the strange landscape of the second movement.



Discovering Beethoven: Family Concert with Leonore Trio

Saturday, 3 October 2015 - 11:00am / Hall Two

Discovering Beethoven is a fun exploration of Beethoven for all ages! The concert features a specially commissioned piece for Piano Trio and Narrator.



Leonore Trio: The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios, Concert IV

Wednesday, 11 November 2015 - 7:30pm / Hall One

Beethoven *Piano Trio in G major, Op. 1 No. 2*
Huw Watkins *Piano Trio*
Beethoven *Allegretto in B flat, WoO 39*
Beethoven *Piano Trio in E flat, Op. 70 No. 2*

The final concert of the series ends with the companion piece to the *Ghost*; Trio Op. 70, No.2. Although less often played than its famous sibling this Trio is one of Beethoven's most remarkable utterances. The first movement has elements that look forward to his later style, while the serene third movement must have had a considerable impact on Schubert, indeed, on first hearing one would be forgiven for mistaking it for the younger composer.

Composed in 2009 for the renowned Florestan Trio, Huw Watkins' work in three movements combines jagged and edgy rhythms with moments of sublime lyricism.