

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Marina Piccinini, flute

Peter Wiley, cello

Anna Polonsky, piano

Sunday, October 23 – 3:00 PM

Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society

PROGRAM

Flute Trio in G Major, Hob. XV:15

Joseph Haydn

Born: March 31, 1732, Rohrau, Austria

Died: May 31, 1809, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1792

Duration: 17 minutes

It is not known for sure why Haydn chose the flute over the more usual violin in his three flute trios. It is not out of the question that the choice of the flute instead of the otherwise more usual violin in the piano trio line-up was already a concession to English taste. The flute was a favorite instrument of the aristocracy and of the genteel bourgeoisie. The Trio in G major adheres to classical sonata form. After an energetic first movement, there follows a lyrical middle movement in which the flute and piano vie for the listener's favor in equal measure, while the cello accompanies discreetly. The last movement is a typical example of Haydn's inexhaustible abundance of surprising invention and of his penchant for playing jokes on his listeners.

Flute Sonata in D Major, Op. 94

Sergei Prokofiev

Born: April 23, 1891, Sontsivka, Ukrain

Died: March 5, 1953, Moscow, Russia

Composed: 1943

Duration: 24 minutes

The opening movement of this sonata harks back to the neoclassical style of his Piano Sonata No. 5 as well as *Cinderella*. The second movement *scherzo* is initially light and capricious, but the piano part in particular introduces an increasingly sardonic tone, and the movement does not so much finish as precipitously wind up. There are further hints of disquieted emotions in the third movement, and a striking passage of bluesy rumination. Ultimately, though, the Sonata ends with an upbeat finale which includes in a central interlude one of Prokofiev's sweetest melodies.

12 Variations on *Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen*, from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Op. 66

Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December, 1770, Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1796

Duration: 10 minutes

The variations on Mozart's theme '*Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen*', probably composed in 1798, reflect Beethoven's great admiration for that composer and his opera *Die Zauberflöte*. The splendid theme is varied here with sovereign skill and constantly shown from new angles. The buoyant mood of Papageno's well-known aria is on occasion transformed by bold modulations which give it an introverted twist in the two variations in the minor. Despite the jovial virtuosity of the concluding variation, Beethoven brings the work to a cheerful but at the same time thoughtful conclusion.

Trio in D Minor, Op. 49 [Arr.]

Felix Mendelssohn

Born: February 3, 1809, Hamburg, Germany

Died: November 4, 1847, Leipzig, Germany

Composed: 1839

Duration: 35 minutes

At the very opening, Mendelssohn rapidly alternates the left and right hands of the piano's accompaniment to augment the sense of agitation, pushing forward the gloriously expansive cello melody. The slow movement has a tender beauty, a 'Song without words', with the flute and cello echoing the piano. The 'light and lively' *Scherzo* is trademark Mendelssohn; masterfully written, it is even now a challenge to play at the blistering marked tempo of one bar a second. The last movement can't compete for sheer tempo, but uses more traditional means: contrapuntal ingenuity driven by a fiendishly complex piano part, and then the cello bursting forth with the most gloriously optimistic theme of the whole work.