

HAMILTON PIANO COMPANY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 AT 5:30PM

BELLISSIMAFEST 2024

Professors' Showcase

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Piano Trio in Eb major, Op. 100

Allegro

Andante con moto

Scherzo. Allegro moderato

Allegro moderato

Hristo Popov, violin

Claudio Jaffe, cello

Kuo-Pei Cheng-Lin, piano

The Piano Trio No. 2 in E-flat major for piano, violin, and cello, D. 929, was one of the last compositions completed by Franz Schubert, dated November 1827. It was published by Probst as Opus 100 in late 1828, shortly before the composer's death and first performed at a private party in January 1828 to celebrate the engagement of Schubert's school-friend Josef von Spaun. The Trio was among the few of his late compositions Schubert heard performed before his death. It was given its first private performance by Carl Maria von Bocklet on the piano, Ignaz Schuppanzigh playing the violin, and Josef Linke playing cello.

Like Schubert's other piano trio, this is a comparatively larger work than most piano trios of the time, taking almost 50 minutes to perform. The second theme of the first movement is based loosely on the opening theme of the Minuet and Trio of Schubert's G major sonata (D. 894). Scholar Christopher H. Gibbs asserts direct evidence of Beethoven's influence on the Trio.

The main theme of the second movement was used as one of the central musical themes in Stanley Kubrick's 1975 film *Barry Lyndon*. It has also been used in a number of other films, including *The Hunger*, *Crimson Tide*, *The Piano Teacher*, *L'Homme de sa vie*, *Land of the Blind*, *Recollections of the Yellow House*, *The Way He Looks*, *The Mechanic*, *Miss Julie*, *The Congress*, the HBO miniseries *John Adams*, the FX miniseries *Mrs. America*, two episodes of *American Crime Story*, as the opening piece for the ABC documentary *The Killing Season*, used throughout the BBC documentary *Auschwitz: The Nazis and*

'The Final Solution', and in the 2023 biographical film, *Dance First*, about Irish playwright Samuel Beckett.

The manuscript has been preserved since 1955 in a private collection in Switzerland.

Wikipedia



Described as "Virtuoso-violinist extraordinaire" (Musical Horizons), Hristo Popov made his orchestra debut at the age of nine with Plovdiv State Philharmonic Orchestra and since then has performed as recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist at major performing arts venues in the U.S. and throughout Europe. He has had the honor to perform for two U.S. presidents, the Pope, the Rolling Stones, the NBA Basketball Convention, and the Olympic Gold Medalists. His Carnegie Hall debut was hailed by *The Strad Magazine* as "...alert and energetic." Hristo Popov was a prizewinner at the Kocian International Violin Competition, Silver Medalist at the California Young Artist Competition, winner of the Grand Prize at the International Institute of Music (Germany, USA), and first place winner at the ASTA Chamber Music Competition. He was selected as Artist of the Month at the Obama for Arts and Entertainment Organization in April of 2009. In 2023, he received the Saint-Georges Medal of Honor from the Region of Guadeloupe for his work on promoting diversity in Classical music and the promotion of the music of Joseph Bologne Chevalier de Saint-Georges. Dr. Popov earned Performance Diploma from Idyllwild Arts Academy, Bachelor of Music and Artist Diploma from Oberlin Conservatory. As a member of the Niles Quartet in Residence at University of Kentucky he earned Doctor of Musical Arts. He has served as Professor of Violin at Kent State University and Youngstown State University. Currently, he teaches full time at Bellissima Music Academy in Florida.



Cellist Claudio Jaffé launched his solo performance career at the age of 11 with an orchestral debut in his native Brazil. His recitals and guest solo appearances with multiple orchestras have brought him to play in prestigious artistic centers around the world including those in New York City, London, Tokyo, Ottawa, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires. The *New York Times* describes Jaffé as "an elegant and accomplished artist" of "taste, technique, musicianship, and a contagious youthful enthusiasm." He is principal cellist of the Florida Grand Opera and Palm Beach Symphony, and Music Director of the Florida Youth Orchestra. A prizewinner in numerous national and international competitions, Jaffé received four

degrees from Yale University including the Doctor of Musical Arts. He served as Dean of the Lynn University Conservatory of Music and created their Preparatory Division, began the Strings Program at Saint Andrew's School in Boca Raton, has conducted the Florida Youth Orchestra for over 25 years, performed as member of the Delray String Quartet for over 10 seasons, and taught at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Jaffé has conducted, performed, and taught at the Santa Catarina Music Festival (FEMUSC) and performs regularly at the Sunflower and Buzzards Bay Music Festivals.



Mrs. Kuo-Pei Cheng-Lin's journey in music began in her native Taiwan, where she immersed herself in the world of classical music from a young age. Entering a prestigious classical music school in the seventh grade, her talent led her to be accepted to Taiwan's top musical high school and subsequent university, and earning a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the National Institute of Arts in Taiwan. Her educational path continued with two Master's degrees in Piano Performance and Collaborative Piano from The Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), where she excelled to the point of receiving a full scholarship for the Santa Barbara Summer Music Festival. Upon completion of her studies, Mrs. Cheng-Lin secured a role as a staff accompanist at CIM, laying the foundation for her dynamic career in music. In 1995, Mrs. Cheng-Lin took her talents to Cincinnati, where she not only became the principal pianist for the Middletown Symphony Orchestra but also served as the music director and pianist for the Cincinnati Chinese Church at Mason. Her move to Greenville, SC in 2004, she shared her expertise as an adjunct professor at North Greenville University while continuing her role as principal pianist for the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra. She was also a speaker and panelist for GMTA meetings and Bob Jones University piano symposium. Over her 40-year teaching career, Mrs. Cheng-Lin has inspired countless students, many of whom have gone on to achieve success in various competitions and auditions. Beyond her teaching, Mrs. Cheng-Lin has been an active performer, participating in numerous concerts as both a soloist and collaborative pianist. She has shared the stage with musicians from esteemed orchestras such as the Cincinnati Symphony and the Greenville Symphony, alongside faculty members from universities including Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, North Greenville University, Bob Jones University, Furman University, and Indiana University. One of the highlights of her performance career was her rendition of Liszt's Piano Concerto No.1 with the Foothills Philharmonic at the Peace Center in Greenville, showcasing her virtuosity and passion for music. Today, Mrs. Cheng-Lin continues to influence the music scene as an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University, seamlessly balancing her teaching duties with an active performing schedule that includes solo, chamber, and collaborative piano engagements.