

Reviews

Selection of Czech Trio concert reviews

["What took the Western Hemisphere so long to realize that this marvelous group exists?"](#)

/Concert of the Czech Trio in Cleveland, Ohio, USA/

[Cleveland's Plain Dealer, USA](#)

[The Czech Trio playing pieces by the Prague Conservatory's directors](#) /shortcut/

This year's momentous celebrations of the Prague Conservatory's 200th anniversary were joined by the Czech Chamber Music Society, a significant institution that has been contributing at the highest levels of quality to the Czech music scene. The Czech Trio, **Dana Vlachová** (violin), **Miroslav Petráš** (cello) and **Milan Langer** (piano), all of whom are distinguished teachers at the Prague Conservatory, performed a programme in Dvořák Hall at the Rudolfinum 23 February 2011, which presented the works of three directors from this arts institution. The programme's choices reflected many interesting connections: Josef Suk became a student of Antonín Dvořák almost immediately after being appointed as a professor of composition; both composers later on, though chronologically in the reverse order, assumed leadership roles in this educational institution. In addition, Dvořák's chamber compositions soon became key pieces performed by the Czech Chamber Music Society. However, the Prague Conservatory does not only draw on the past and its traditions: as can be seen in the third composition played on that occasion – The Piano Trio No. 2 composed by Pavel Trojan, the school's current director. The opening composition of the concert was Suk's Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 2, in which the young, then only 15-year-old author unequivocally showed his exceptional talent. This piece was followed by Dvořák's mature opus – Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65.

The third and final piece of the concert was a new composition by the renowned arts institution's current director. In 2009, Pavel Trojan (1956) wrote his four-movement Piano Trio No. 2 after being asked to do so by the Czech Trio to whom he dedicated the piece. The composition he created stands out in the context of contemporary chamber music for its unusual ingenuity, maturity and inventive approach.

The Czech Trio was extremely well prepared to present the new composition and the whole evening was a success. This was thanks to having three exceptional musicians – the masterful pianist Milan Langer, who is always ready to offer a sensitive collaboration within the group; the technically superb violinist Dana Vlachová, who contributes with her emotionally rich performances; and the subtle and measured cellist Miroslav Petráš, who creates through his playing the necessary elements to bring the whole picture together of this outstanding ensemble.

Ludvík Kašpárek, Hudební rozhledy

The Czech Trio (Prague, Dvořák Hall, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Chamber Series) presented an ambitious programme: Piano Trio in A minor by P. I. Tchaikovsky and Dumky by Antonín Dvořák. Two of the most renowned works of the trio repertoire, difficult both technically and also by way of expression, they require a high degree of maturity on the part of the ensemble members. The Czech Trio, conscious of the fact that they have attained this maturity, presented the compositions with inner detachment, technical precision and exemplary musicality.

The Tchaikovsky trio is not a frequent repertoire item because the interpreters have several pitfalls to weather, and success is not guaranteed. With a clear conception of their own interpretation in mind, the Czech Trio put the whole charge of their musicality as well as the artistic maturity they have achieved into the first movement and presented an effective meditation on the subject of death, overlapping into catharsis through the variations of the second movement. The trio fulfilled the composer's aim with understanding and with their own artistic approach, supported by their many years' experience in chamber music interpretation and the well-balanced solo contribution of the individual players. The precise pianist with his supreme poles of dynamic values upheld his unstated position of leadership, the cellist with his exhilarating tone based on virtuoso technique and breadth of expression, his co-player par excellence; the firm, energetic sound of the violinist whose form of expression is a far cry from attempting any romanticized effect - this threesome thus has the chance to put in their own personal musical contribution. The trio's coordination was perfect and their sound harmony was therefore beautifully balanced. Dvorak's Dumky Trio only confirmed the high qualities of the ensemble, which left the best of impressions in the listeners with this elevating piece of music.

Eva Vítová, Harmonie

[Spontaneous Music Making by Mature Artists](#)

Czech Republic is often dubbed as the treasury of string players and had a long tradition of the finest chamber musicians, but the Czech Trio has played an especially important role. The Trio has been in existence for over 100 years with several generations of players. The players have always been chosen from the best chamber musicians, rather than star soloists.

Therefore, the Czech Trio's performance traditionally has never been extravagant, but rather, shone with true musical insights. The last generation of the Trio with pianist Palenicek was representative of that style, but the present members of the Trio, Langer /piano/, Vlachová /violin/ and Petráš /cello/, also lives up to that tradition.

The concert on June 26th at Denki Bunka Kaikan, part of the Nagoya International Chamber Music Festival, opened with Haydn's Trio No. 39. Quite often the lovely melody of the beginning of the first movement is played much too preciously, but the Czech Trio made it speak for itself, simple and unadorned.

That spontaneous interpretation matched the rest of the piece nicely and balanced exquisite by the lively Hungarian Finale.

The second piece was a trio by a Czech contemporary composer, Kalabis. The writing style may not be the most avant-garde, but the resulting resonance was ingenious and the piece as well as the performance resembled the American Modernism.

The last piece on the program was Dvořák's Trio No. 3 in F minor. This is one of Dvořák's masterpieces, along with the more often-played Dumky, but this trio has a tighter structure and wider scope. The performance was dynamic and exciting, but again, nothing was forceful or artificial, and the music flowed naturally. Even the lyrical third movement, which is so often played with

exaggerated sentimentality, was executed with classical balance and spontaneity. The Trio offered four encores including a movement from Dumky. An added feeling of relaxation made the performance even more enjoyable. Today even in the world of classical music, superstars and idols are applauded. This evening's concert by the Czech Trio was a refreshing concert of true music, played by mature musicians.

Senichi Nishizaki, Nippon Keizai Shimbun

Poster of Czech Trio's concert at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, 2003

サントリーホール・メンバーズ・クラブ特別コンサート No.33
Suntory Hall Members Club Special Concert No.33

歴史と伝統のハーモニー
ザ・チェコトリオ
The Czech Trio

歴史的に数多くの弦楽器奏者を輩出してきた国チェコ。その中で、「ザ・チェコトリオ」の名は100年以上の伝統を持ち、由緒ある演奏家によって世代を超えて受け継がれてきました。本公演では、ドヴォルザークとチャイコフスキーのピアノトリオの名曲をプログラム。週末の夜、上質な音楽にたっぷり酔いしれるひとときをお楽しみください。

ピアノ：ミラン・ラングル
Milan Langer, piano

ヴァイオリン：ダナ・ヴラホヴァ
Dana Vlachova, violin

チェロ：ミロスラフ・ペトラーシュ
Miroslav Petras, cello



2003年10月17日(金)
午後7:00開演(午後6:20開場)
サントリーホール・小ホール
全席指定 4,000円

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詳しくは各子機の問合・入場はご遠慮ください。
主催：サントリーホール

サントリーホール・メンバーズ・クラブ
特別コンサート
No. 33

ヴァイオリン：
ダナ・ヴラホヴァ
Dana Vlachova, violin

チェロ：
ミロスラフ・ペトラーシュ
Miroslav Petras, cello

歴史と伝統のハーモニー
ザ・チェコトリオ

チャイコフスキー：
ピアノ三重奏曲 イ短調 op.50
「偉大な芸術家の思い出に」

ドヴォルザーク：
ピアノ三重奏曲 ホ短調 B166
「ドゥムキー」

他

ピアノ：
ミラン・ラングル
Milan Langer, piano

創立当時のメンバー

スズキー
ブリアン
ホフマイスター

ザ・チェコトリオ The Czech Trio, piano trio
1890年創立以来110年以上の歴史を誇り、常に当代第一のチェコを代表するリストがメンバートになってボヘミア国内楽の伝統を維持発展してきた。このトリオは、ピアニストのホフマイスターが創設。特に1930年代以降、ホフマイスターの弟子にあたるバルネーチェクの時代には、ペーターヴェン全集の録音がらびでグランプリを獲得するなど、確固たる評価を築く。三度来日したFM東京の放送などで名演を残した。この由緒あるトリオを受け継いだ現在のメンバーは、先代のヴァラフ弦楽四重奏団のリーダーの次女ヴラホヴァ、バルネーチェクの高弟ラングル、そして現代チェコ楽壇を代表するペトラーシュ。チェコ音楽基金賞を受賞したドヴォルザークのトリオ全集やコロンボルのトリオ作品の紹介など幅広いレパートリーで世界を駆け回り、そのシンプルながら名格のとおりチェコを代表するトリオとして重要な位置を占めている。

Selection of Czech Trio Recording Reviews

Smetana: Trio in G minor Op. 15

Dvořák: Dumky Trio in E minor Op. 90

Arco Diva, UP 0017

[BARGAIN OF THE MONTH](#)

Music Web International

These are two of the best known Czech trios and are here performed by a trio that must know them very well. They are both "dark" works and the background to their composition does help when getting to know them.

The Smetana Piano Trio was written following the death due to scarlet fever of the composer's three year old daughter Bedřiska in 1855. During three years Smetana lost three daughters but it was Bedřiška that had already shown promise. Her loss hit the composer greatly. Liszt liked the work but otherwise it was not a success and not published until 1879.

All the movements are in G minor and the first is almost unrelenting in its tragic overtones. The beginning is very effective with the violin's solo cries. Musically the format underlines the tragedy. The Czech trio has a real feeling for this music and is very effective in transmitting a sense of loss. The second movement has some lovely "Slavonic" playing from the violin and a more resigned tranquility. Lovely plaintive playing dominates the middle section before anguish returns. There is a real feeling of ensemble here and this is well captured by the engineers. The finale starts with much more energy and uses a theme from his piano sonata. However any positive feelings dissipate with funereal tones towards the end. This is beautifully played and as the piece comes to a highly charged conclusion, the trio plays as one. Not an easy listen but the piece finds splendid advocacy from the Czech players.

Dvořák's Dumky Trio is the most famous of his four piano trios and is second only to the American Quartet among his chamber music. The name Dumky comes from a Dumka which is a Ukrainian ballad; there are six in this work and therefore the six movements are more like a collection of songs, firstly slow, followed by a Slavonic dance. The first movement typifies this duality. A slow sad opening is followed by a gypsy style rondo. Likewise in the later moments we have tender and somber reflection but as always with splendid Dvořákian melodies. The Czech players clearly know this piece inside out and give a spirited performance. There are many good versions of this much loved piece but I will be very happy to pick this one from the shelves and enjoy the Czech Trio's authentic performances. To take one example, there is marvelous interplay in the masterful Allegro. As the piece comes to a wistful but energetic conclusion we sense a real feeling of Bohemia inherent in many of Dvorak's works.

This is a well performed disc of two pieces which benefit from closer attention. I am now much more aware of the background. The Czech Trio has been in existence for a hundred years and the present combination is also soloists and teachers.

David R. Dunsmore

Dvořák: Trio in F minor Op. 65
Suk: Elegie Op. 23
Martinů: Trio No. 3 in C "Grand Trio"
Arco Diva, UP 0072

Music Web International:

[Marvellous programming here. The Czech Trio plays native works with the utmost dedication in spacious, supporting recording. A lovely disc...](#)

Colin Clarke

Rachmaninov: Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor
Dvořák: Trio in B major Op. 21
Suk: Trio in C minor Op. 2
Suk: Elegie Op. 23
Arco Diva, UP 0102

International Record Review, July/August 2009:

["This is an attractive disc of early works by all three composers and the Czech Trio's performances are marked by their spontaneity and complete involvement throughout."](#)

Nicholas Salwey