

Trio Jean Paul Biography Chamber Music

Eckart Heiligers, piano
Ulf Schneider, violin
Martin Löhr, violoncello



"The Trio Jean Paul played with excitement and grace and brought out the most beautiful in every movement. The result was wonderfully balanced chamber music to sink into."

The Trio Jean Paul has remained unchanged for almost three decades and continues to rank among the most successful and sought-after chamber music ensembles today. The trio captivates audiences around the world with its sophisticated ensemble culture, keen sense of tonal aesthetics not to mention the musicality of the three artists with their poised style.

Their career together started with first prizes at competitions in Melbourne and Osaka as well as at the *Deutsche Musikwettbewerb*. The name of the ensemble was also quickly set: Jean Paul was the favorite poet of Robert Schumann, whose works are particularly dear to the trio. As more than a mere namesake to the trio, the name reveals the musicians primary aim: to explore the similarities of music and language and make it audible for the audience.

Their engagements regularly take the ensemble to major concert halls around the world such as the Wiener Konzerthaus, Berliner Philharmonie, Palais des Beaux Arts Brussels or Wigmore Hall in London. Their extensive tours take them to the USA, Canada, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria.

The ensemble's work focuses on the performance of contemporary repertoire, which also includes numerous original premieres by famous composers. Wolfgang Rihm dedicated his "Trio Concerto" to the ensemble which the Trio premiered in 2014 at the Berliner Philharmonie together with the WDR Sinfonieorchester under Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Further performances with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich and the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hanover followed.

Numerous CD productions by the trio garnered prizes: The recording of Brahms's Trio in B major and Schönberg's *Verklärte Nacht* was awarded the *Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik*; the recording of the two Mendelssohn trios in 2009 and the Schubert trios in 2012 under the CAvi Music label were distinguished with the *Supersonic-Award*. In 2015 their CD featuring piano trios by Joseph Haydn (also under the CAvi-Music label) was brought on the market. At least the Trio enthuses with their CD of Brahms's String Sextets arranged for Piano Trio by the composer's friend Theodor Kirchner.

For more information, visit the homepage www.triojeanpaul.de.

Short biographies

Eckart Heiligers, piano



studied under Karl-Heinz Kämmerling in Hanover and Leon Fleisher in Baltimore (USA). His achievements earned numerous scholarships early on from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Deutscher Musikwettbewerb as well as a France Graage Performance Scholarship. Eckart Heiligers delivered award-winning performances at numerous international competitions in Vercelli, Athens, Salt Lake City, Oslo and others. His concert work is characterised by tremendous breadth as he regularly performs as a soloist, chamber musician and vocal accompanist. He also serves as professor for piano and chamber music at the Zurich University of the Arts. His work also has him offering master classes both in Germany and abroad as well as participating as a jury member at international music competitions.

Ulf Schneider, violin



studied in Hanover, New York and Berlin under Jens Ellermann, Masao Kawasaki, Felix Galimir and Thomas Zehetmair. During his studies, he won numerous prizes as well as scholarships and was a member of the Zehetmair Quartett for several years. Today, he performs internationally both as a soloist as well as in various chamber music formations ranging from the duo to quintet.

The recordings of his ensemble with the Ars Musici, Membran, Cavi and ECM labels have earned widespread praise and accolades among the critical press.

Ulf Schneider plays a Carlo Giuseppe Testore instrument from 1725 – a generous loan from a private collector from Germany arranged by Violin Assets GmbH.

Martin Löhr, violoncello



completed his studies under Wolfgang Mehlhorn in Hamburg, Zara Nelsova at the Juilliard School in New York and Wolfgang Boettcher at the Berlin University of the Arts. He is also a recipient of a scholarship from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, a Masefield scholarship, was included in the Federal Selection of Concerts for Young Artists and was awarded the prize of the Mozartgesellschaft Wiesbaden. In 1995, he won 1st prize at the "Jeunesses Musicales" International Cello Competition in Belgrade.

Martin Löhr is a solo cellist of the Berlin Philharmonic, teaches at the Orchestra Academy and is a regular lecturer at master courses in Germany and abroad. His extensive concert performances include, in addition to orchestral concerts, solo performances as well as chamber music in a variety of formations.