

**Lunchtime
concerts
(Recorded)**

MUSIC AT

ST JOHN'S
a community project

www.masj.org.uk

Fridays at 12:30pm

3rd July 2020

*(Recorded 25th June
at St John's Church)*

String Trio Recital

Opus III

Jane McClelland - Violin

Simon Lillystone - Violin & Viola

Louise Brecknell - Violoncello

Trio Sonata in Eb major BWV 525

Johann Sebastian Bach (1665 – 1750)

[Allegro] : Adagio : Allegro

String Trio in G minor

Alexander Borodin (1833 – 1887)

on the Russian Folk Song: "Chem tebya ya ogorchila"

Andantino

Sonata a tre in F minor TWV 42:f2

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767)

Adagio : Allegro : [Largo] : Allegro

Baryton Trio in D major Hob XI; Nr. 114

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)

Moderato : Menuetto & Trio : Finale; Fuga

See next page for programme notes and biographical details of the performers.

This concert is the second to be recorded in the present series

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Programme Notes

Johann Sebastian Bach compiled his collection of six Trio Sonatas for organ in the 1720's whilst he was in Leipzig. They include both newly composed music and reworkings of music from earlier cantatas and other organ works. BWV 525, the first in the set, illustrates the general characteristics: *Sonata da chiesa* form; three movements; and three independent melodic lines. It is this latter point that makes the sonatas ideal for performance by other instrumental combinations, such as here for two violins and cello (in F major, rather than the original key of Eb major).

Alexander Borodin is probably best known these days for his opera, *Prince Igor* and the slow movement of his Second-String Quartet, which appeared in the popular musical, *Kismet*. Like many intellectuals in 19th century Russia, for Borodin, music was his hobby, and his 'day-job' was as Professor of Chemistry at the University in St Petersburg. His String Trio is a very early work (from 1855 when he was in Germany), and remained hidden until the 1960s when it was published by the Moscow State Press. Eight variations follow a sombre theme based on the Russian folk-song "What have I done to hurt you?".

Georg Philipp Telemann is one of the most famous and inventive composers of the German Baroque Era. Like many composers of the period, his output was extensive, and probably unmatched by any of his contemporaries. He also holds the distinction of being offered Kapellmeister jobs that JS Bach failed to secure. Additionally, his music is quite distinct from that of JS Bach: being more progressive and more in tune with the arising aspirations of the Rococo and Early Classical Eras. The F minor trio was originally written for Treble Recorder, Violin and Basso Continuo, though it was common practice during the period (perhaps to keep sales and interest high) to suggest other combinations of instruments.

Franz Joseph Haydn is undoubtedly one of the most popular composers of the Classical Era. He was exceptionally prolific and skilled in certain genres, and is acknowledged as the creator of the string quartet form of which 104 examples by Haydn have survived. Less well-known is that he wrote over 123 string trios between 1765 and 1775. These were all commissioned and played by Prince Nikolaus of Esterhazy, where Haydn worked. What is unique about these trios is that, alongside violin and cello, they originally called for a most unusual instrument of the time: the Baryton - a member of the viol rather than violin family, which is now virtually unknown.

The performers - Opus III

Jane McClelland – *Violin*, **Simon Lillystone** - *Violin & Viola* and **Louise Brecknell** - *Violoncello*

Opus III is a newly-formed string trio based in Hertfordshire, and takes its name from the catalogue number of Beethoven's first ever published string trio (in Eb major). The group intends to present not only the regular repertoire for the usual combination of violin, viola and cello by classical and twentieth composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Reger, and Hindemith, but also the much larger corpus of music for two violins and cello, as this debut concert will demonstrate. Opus III is delighted to help St John's, Boxmoor keep its lunchtime concert series on the go, and to get the chance to play in its wonderful acoustic.

Simon Lillystone began the violin on his fifth birthday, and after university in Scotland embarked on a professional career with orchestras across the UK, variously playing both modern and baroque violin. Additionally, since his late 20's Simon has performed professionally both here and abroad as a tenor, and made a number of highly acclaimed recordings with small vocal ensembles as a soloist.

Jane McClelland has performed many times at St John's and is delighted to return with the newly formed Opus III Trio. She plays regularly with a number of ensembles and orchestras alongside her role as Head of Strings at Lockers Park School. Jane's playing experience has included TV work with Jools Holland and a full-time role in one of the BBC orchestras. Jane has renewed her interest in Baroque music largely through her collaboration with Simon and embraces the opportunity to perform today in such a beautiful church with its enviable acoustic!

Louise Brecknell has played cello for many years with Amadeus Chamber Orchestra in St Albans and with Hertfordshire-based Camerata Chamber Orchestra. She has previously performed at St John's, Boxmoor on a number of occasions, including performances with the Clarence Quartet. Rehearsing in the garden for this recital at St John's with her sister, Jane, and future brother-in-law, Simon, has been a great pleasure during this time of pandemic.