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11-23-2019

Brahms Horn Trio

Chloë Sodonis

Caroline Beckman

Stephen Estep

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS THE

BRAHMS HORN TRIO

CHLOË SODONIS, HORN
CAROLINE BECKMAN, VIOLIN
STEPHEN ESTEP, PIANO

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019
3 P.M.

RECITAL HALL
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER

PROGRAM

Brahms Horn Trio in E♭ Major, Op. 40

..... Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

- I. Andante
- II. Scherzo
- III. Adagio mesto
- IV. Allegro con brio

Chloë is a student of Sean Vore.
Caroline is a student of Carlos Elias.

No flash photography, please.

Please turn off all cell phones.

Program Notes

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) was born in Hamburg, Germany, to intelligent and talented parents. His father played several instruments, and Johannes himself could play all the ones you'll see on stage tonight. At age 10 he participated in his first chamber music concert, and at age 15 he gave his first solo piano recital, which included works by Bach and Beethoven. Those two musical heroes would be a lasting influence on his music, especially Beethoven with his surprises and sense of drama. While in his early 20s, Brahms began collecting German folk proverbs, poetry, and music; Hungarian gypsy musicians also left their mark on his style. He was a founding member of the Vienna Hunting Horn Association, and he originally wrote this trio for hunting horn, violin, and piano; listen closely for the echoes of hunting calls in the music. Even the first two ascending notes from the violin replicate them. It is a tender, sad moment, though, with the piano's questioning chords as the backdrop: the trio was written in the aftermath of the death in 1865 of Brahms's beloved mother, Johanna. The piece is suffused with longing, affection, grief, anger, and the joy that wins out in the end.

~Stephen Estep

P.S. If you've never seen a live French horn before, you may wonder why Chloë turns it in circles when she's not playing. That's to empty the condensation that collects in the horn. Now, if we have water coming out of the violin, then we have a problem. And if you're even more curious, a horn unrolled would be about 12 feet long.

Chloë Sodonis is a junior French horn performance major at Cedarville University. She is principal horn in the University Wind Symphony and Orchestra as well as an active member in the broader south Ohio music community, performing as a substitute musician for the Kettering Praise Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic Concert Band, and Springfield Symphony Orchestra. She loves chamber music and has experience playing in brass quintets, woodwind quintets, a horn choir, a horn quartet, a horn and harp duet, and an oboe trio. Chloë has thoroughly enjoyed preparing this trio for horn, violin and piano, and she loves the range of emotions evoked through this piece. She hopes to continue her studies in graduate school and earn a position as a member of an esteemed symphony orchestra.

Caroline Beckman, a Kansas native, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music with concentrations in violin performance and piano pedagogy at Cedarville University, where she serves as a concertmaster of the Cedarville University Orchestra. Beginning formal music instruction at age six, Caroline went on to win numerous awards in piano and violin at State KMTA and KMFA competitions, the Bethany Oratorio Society Festival Apprenticeship Chair, and 2015 Salina Youth Symphony Concerto Competition. She has performed as a member of the Kansas Intercollegiate orchestra, Mannheim Steamroller, and Salina Symphony, where she served as assistant concertmaster for the 2011-16 seasons, as well as Bethany College String Quartet, Cedarville University String Quartet, and Kansas Wesleyan University Honors String Quartet, winners of the 2016 KASTA Chamber Music Competition. In addition to orchestral and chamber music, Caroline has participated in workshops with American fiddler, Mark O'Conner, the MasterWorks Summer Music Festival in Spartanburg, SC and the David Kim Orchestral Institute in Philadelphia, PA. Most recently, in addition to winning the 2019 Cedarville University Concerto Competition, Caroline was featured as a soloist with the Cedarville University Chamber Orchestra during their international tour abroad in Italy.

Stephen Estep is a professional free-lance accompanist with a BA in Piano Performance from Cedarville University. He worked on his Master of Music degree at Miami University and won the Accompanist's Prize at the Matinee Musicale in Lansing, Michigan; his performance of Bartók's Etude for the Left Hand received an honorable mention at the Bartók-Kabalevsky International Piano Competition. Experience in bands ranges from playing accordion in a Mexican gospel group to playing bass, banjo, lap steel guitar, and keys for local country-punk bands. He has been a music critic since 2008: his specialty at American Record Guide is composers from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and he covers classical, folk, and rock for The Absolute Sound. His clarinet sonata, Technical Difficulties, was chosen for performance at the 2012 International Clarinet Association convention. He and his wife Caitlin enjoy history, laughter, and spoiling their ferret.

