

Young People's Concert

Tuesday November 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Featuring:

The Neave Trio

Anna Williams, violin; Mikahil Veselov, cello; Eri Nakamura, piano



In this special virtual concert titled “Voices”, the [Neave Trio](#) will be performing four pieces while demonstrating what “voice” each instrument has and how they work together to make beautiful music.

This handout contains a couple topics to introduce to your students prior to the upcoming concert to help them engage in the virtual concert.

THE PIANO TRIO

A piano trio a group of three musicians that play piano and two other instruments. The most common combination is piano, violin, and cello – which is what the Neave Trio plays!

Violin

- The smallest and highest pitched instrument in the string family. It has a lovely tone that can soft and expressive or exciting and brilliant.
- Has 4 strings and is played by moving a bow across the strings with the right hand while pressing fingers onto strings with the left hand.
- The body of the violin is typically made of wood, the strings are made of animal gut, nylon, or steel, and the bow is made of wood and horsehair. This is the same for all string instruments.
- The violin as we know it today has been around for 400 years. Similar string instruments have been around for almost 1000 years.



Cello

- The cello is one of the lower voices of the string instrument family (the contrabass is the lowest).
- It is known for its warm and rich “singing” quality of tone.
- It looks very similar to a big violin, except the players hold its body between their legs and the weight is supported by an endpin that touches the floor.



Piano

- The piano has the widest range of notes of any instrument.
- The word “piano” is short for pianoforte, meaning that the instrument can be played softer (what a musician would call “piano”) or louder (known as “forte”) in response to the player’s touch on the keyboard.
- When a key is pressed, it moves a felt-covered hammer that strikes a steel string, making it vibrate to produce a sound.



PROGRAM

Clara Schumann: Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17

I. Allegro moderato

What to listen for:

The violin typically has the melody, but the piano and cello will echo or answer – see if you can hear the echo during the performance!

What descriptor words would you use to talk about this piece? What about the musicians' playing makes you want to describe it that way?



Clara Schumann

(1819-1896)

was a German concert pianist and composer. Much of her work hadn't been discovered until very recently because women of her time were not encouraged to be composers. Since being discovered, however, her music has been performed all over the world.

Amy Beach: Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 150

II. Lento espressivo

Amy Beach

(1857-1944)

was the first successful American female symphony composer and is one of the most respected and acclaimed American composers of her time.



What to listen for:

Espressivo means “expressive.” The strings have melodies at the beginning and end that sound like singing. How does this singing quality make you feel?

The middle section is a “scherzo” meaning “playful” and is based on a folk song.

Can you identify this section, and does it make you feel differently than the slower sections around it?

Rebecca Clarke: Piano Trio III. Allegro vigoroso

British violist and composer
Rebecca Clarke

(1886-1979) was one of the first women to attend the Royal College of Music in London. She began composing under the pseudonym “Anthony Trent” in 1918 in order to get her music recognized. When she finally attempted to publish music under her own name in 1921, she was denied publication until a small group of musicians began promoting her works as part her 90th birthday celebration in 1976.



What to listen for:

There are two contrasting styles that the musicians will switch between in this piece – can you identify them?

Hint: watch how the strings play – they may use something other than their bows to make sound.

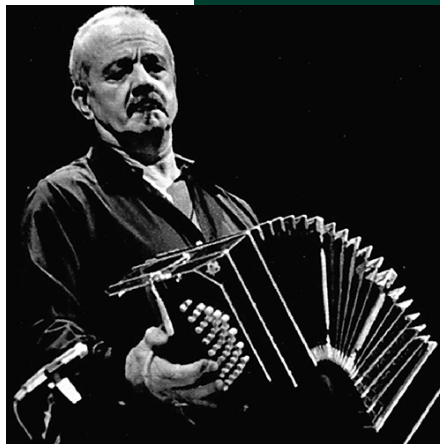
How would you describe the different sounds the musicians make in the two styles?

Astor Piazzolla: *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires:* “Winter” and “Spring”

What to listen for:

This piece was inspired by Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* (<https://youtu.be/GRxofEmo3HA>). Astor wanted his version to evoke the feeling of the seasons in Buenos Aires in the style of a tango – the signature dance of his native country Argentina.

When listening, close your eyes and imagine a picture of the according season in the music. What colors do you see? How does the music affect your color choice?



Astor Piazzolla

(1921-1992) was an Argentine *bandoneon* (square-built button accordion) virtuoso who left his job working in tango bands to become a composer who blended elements of jazz and classical music.