

# Cyprus Trio

Violinist, cellist and pianist to perform first official concert

**T**he newly founded Cyprus Piano Trio members were born in different countries but have chosen Cyprus as their home country. Violinist Wolfgang Schroeder, cellist Petros Gospodinov and pianist Naoko Kariya will give their first official concert as part of the Pharos Arts Foundation's Cyprus Artists Series on Friday, April 8 at the Shoe Factory in Nicosia.

The interesting programme begins with Beethoven's *Kakadu Variations*, on the theme "Ich bin der Schneider Kakadu" by the Austrian composer and conductor Wenzel Muller. There is a mystery surrounding the date of composition. Although the publication date was just three years before Beethoven's death, it is thought to be an early work as Beethoven described it so in a letter to his brother Karl. A leading Beethoven authority, American musicologist Lewis Lockwood, believes that Beethoven revised it while producing some of his greatest works including the *Symphony No 9* and his *Missa Solemnis*.

Another work rarely performed which will appear on the programme is Arensky's *Trio No 1* in d minor dedicated to the memory of the Russian cellist Karl Davidov, who was the director of the St Petersburg Conservatory while Arensky was a student.

Arensky was also a student of Rimsky-Korsakov and, after graduating with a gold medal, began his own teaching career at the Moscow Conservatory with Rachmaninov, Scriabin and Gliere amongst his students.

Arno Babadjanian's *Piano Trio* in F sharp minor will close the programme. Babadjanian was not a prolific composer as he spent much of his time teaching and giving concerts. His trio was completed in 1952 and we can see the writing of a fertile musical mind. In

essence, Babadjanian was a perfectionist, and although each musical phrase seems to develop naturally, each note was scrutinised by the composer. The Russian classical tradition is present in this work with lush, romantic piano writing. However, the sharp rhythm typical of Armenian music is there with the last movement imbued with the sonorities of folk instruments. Babadjanian, together with violinist David Oistrakh and cellist Sergey Knushevitsky, gave the first performance in 1953.

Wolfgang Schroeder as concert master of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra is a familiar face to music lovers. He studied with Ana Chumachenko and went on to the International Menuhin Music Academy and the Mozarteum in Salzburg under Sandor Vegh and in New York at the Mannes School of Music under Aaron Rosand. As a chamber musician, Schroeder has performed in many of Europe's prestigious venues with chamber partners including Cyprien Katsaris, Daniel Raitskin, Levon Chilingirian and Vladimir Mendelssohn.

Bulgarian born Peter Gospodinov emigrated to Cyprus with his parents when twelve but returned to the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna to study with Yontcho Bayrov and Lilia Schulz. His is a winner of several prizes in Austria, Hungary and Japan, and has given numerous chamber concerts throughout Europe, the Far East and United States. He was a member of the Bruckner Orchestra Linz and is presently principal cellist of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra.

Japanese born Naoko Kariya began her lessons in Tokyo and furthered her studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. As a prize winner in piano and chamber competitions, she is now permanently based in Cyprus.

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