

ORGAN RECITAL HALL / UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

APRIL 18, 2018 / 7:30 P.M.

GRADUATE PIANO TRIO RECITAL

RYAN FOLEY
VIOLIN

NORMA PARROT
CELLO

SICONG ZHOU
PIANO



Colorado State University

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Vitebsk: Study on a Jewish Theme (1929) / **AARON COPLAND**
(1900-1990)

Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8 / **JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)**

I. Allegro con brio

II. Scherzo

III. Adagio

IV. Finale: Allegro

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NOTES:

Vitebsk

The piano trio Vitebsk (1928) by Aaron Copland (1900-1990) is a powerful, challenging work that dates from the early "austere" period of the composer's development, which saw the creation of sparse, often strident works like the Piano Variations (1930) and the Symphonic Ode (1927-1929). Unusually for Copland, Vitebsk incorporates quarter tones into its fabric and, further, represents the only instance in which the composer makes direct use of musical materials that reflect his Jewish heritage.

The opening section poses quarter-tone passages in the strings against stark, unyielding piano chords in an evocation of the shofar, the ceremonial ram's horn blown in Jewish services, notably during the Days of Awe. Eventually, the cello introduces a folk theme that originated in Vitebsk, the White Russian home town of the playwright Shmuel Ansky. (Copland later noted that he had heard this tune in a New York performance of Ansky's play *The Dybbuk*.) The violin and piano imitate some of the tune's motives in harsh, uncompromising statements, after which the opening shofar evocation returns. The tempo eventually quickens to a fast, frenetically driven dance featuring virtuosic runs and further motivic development. As the work draws to the end, the tempo reverts to that of the opening as the strings and piano answer one another in passionate melodic declamations. The opening shofar figures return, along with a final statement of the folk song theme.

Based on Aaron Rabushka

Johannes Brahms : B-Major Piano Trio Opus 8

After playing through a draft of the first version of Johannes Brahms's B-Major Piano Trio, Clara Schumann wrote in her journal, "I cannot quite get used to the constant change of tempo in his works, and he plays them so entirely according to his own fancy that today...I could not follow him, and it was very difficult for his fellow-players to keep their places.... Brahms was not very polite; it seems to me that he will be spoiled by the tremendous idolatry with which he is treated by the younger generation." Later she continued, "It is not easy to play with Brahms; he plays too arbitrarily, and cares nothing for a beat more or less." These observations of 20-year-old Brahms's self-indulgent style of playing give a context to the contrast between the first and revised versions of the trio. While similar in theme, the two versions are a lifetime apart in maturity; where the first boasts of youthful pride and pretense, the second screams in futile and all-too-real irony. After the revision in 1889, the 56 year old Brahms replied to Clara from below his Neptunian beard, "With what childish amusement I while away the beautiful summer days you will never guess. I have rewritten my B Major [Piano] Trio.... It will not be so wild as before--but whether it will be better--? If Joachim and Hausmann happened to be knocking around Baden we might try it sometime." We will be playing the revised version tonight.

-Ryan Foley

Credit to Jan Swafford's Johannes Brahms: A Biography

U P C O M I N G P E R F O R M A N C E S

MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Guest Artist Concert / You-Seong Kim, Voice / FREE	April 19, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Guest Artist Concert / Vincent Warnier, Organ	April 21, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
All Choral Concert	April 24, 7:30 p.m.	GCH
Trombone Studio Recital / FREE	April 24, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Woodwind Area Recital / FREE	April 25, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
Graduate String Quartet Recital	April 26, 7:30 p.m.	ORH
New Music Ensemble Concert	April 28, 7:30 p.m.	GCH
Freshman Voice Studio Recital / FREE	April 29, 2 p.m.	ORH
World Percussion Concert	April 29, 4 p.m.	GCH

DANCE PERFORMANCES

Spring Dance Concert	April 20, 21, 7:30 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Concert	April 21, 2 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Capstone Concert	May 4, 5, 7:30 p.m.	UDT
Spring Dance Capstone Concert	May 5, 2 p.m.	UDT

THEATRE PERFORMANCES

<i>Urinetown, The Musical</i> by Greg Kotis	April 27, 28, May 3, 4, 5, 7:30 p.m.	UT
<i>Urinetown, The Musical</i> by Greg Kotis	April 29, May 6, 2 p.m.	UT
Rockband Project Concert / FREE	May 10, 6:30 p.m.	UT

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