

# NEAVE PIANO TRIO

*“Neave’ is actually a Gaelic name meaning ‘bright’ and ‘radiant,’ both of which certainly apply to this trio’s music making.”*

—WQXR, NEW YORK PUBLIC RADIO



[WWW.NEAVETRIO.COM](http://WWW.NEAVETRIO.COM)



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# NEAVE PIANO TRIO

Since forming in 2010, Neave Trio—violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhail Veselov, and pianist Eri Nakamura—has earned enormous praise for its engaging, cutting-edge performances. *WQXR* explains, “‘Neave’ is actually a Gaelic name meaning ‘bright’ and ‘radiant’, both of which certainly apply to this trio’s music making.” *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* included Neave in its “Best of 2014” and “Best of 2016” roundups, claiming, “their unanimity, communication, variety of touch, and expressive sensibility rate first tier.”

Neave has performed at many esteemed concert series and at festivals worldwide, including Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Smithsonian American Art Museum, 92nd Street Y, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Norfolk and Norwich Chamber Music Series (United Kingdom), and the Samoylov and Rimsky Korsakow Museums’ Chamber Music Series in St. Petersburg (Russia). The Trio has also appeared frequently as soloists for Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with orchestras across the country and held residency positions at Brown University, University of Virginia, San Diego State University as the first ever Fisch/Axelrod Trio-in-Residence, and the Banff Centre (Canada), among many other institutions. Neave Trio was also in residence at the MIT School of Architecture and Design in collaboration with dancer/choreographer Richard Colton. In the fall of 2017, the Trio joined the faculty of the Longy School of Music of Bard College as Alumni Artists, Faculty Ensemble in Residence.

Neave Trio strives to champion new works by living composers and reach wider audiences through innovative concert presentations, regularly collaborating with artists of all mediums. These collaborations include performances with the Blythe Barton Dance Company; projection artist Ryan Brady; the interactive concert series “STEIN2.0,” with composer Amanuel Zarzowski; *Klee Musings* by acclaimed American composer Augusta Read Thomas, which was premiered by Neave; the premiere of Eric Nathan’s *Missing Words V*, sponsored by Coretet; and a music video by filmmaker Amanda Alvarez Díaz of Astor Piazzolla’s “Otoño Porteño.”

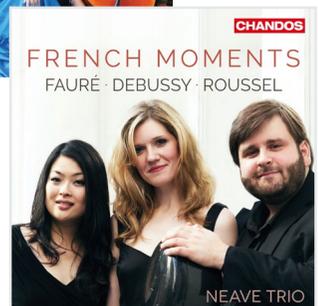
Neave Trio’s next album, *Her Voice*, includes trios by Amy Beach, Rebecca Clarke, and Louise Farrenc, and will be released in September 2019 on Chandos Records. The group’s most recent album, *Celebrating Piazzolla*, was released on Azica Records in November 2018 and features mezzo-soprano Carla Jablonski. *Celebrating Piazzolla* captures the composer’s rich legacy through arrangements by one of Piazzolla’s long time colleagues, José Bragato and by a younger protégé, Leonardo Suárez Paz, as well as an original work by Paz. *Gramophone* described their recording of *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* as “thrilling,” having “wild energy,” and “electrifying,” while *Classics Today* writes, “the energetic edginess, the snap, the rhythm sound convincing, totally invigorating, and authentic.”

Neave Trio’s other recordings include *French Moments* (Chandos Records, 2018) featuring the only known piano trios by Debussy, Fauré, and Roussel, and the group’s debut album, *American Moments* (Chandos Records, 2016), which includes works by Korngold, Foote, and Bernstein.

Highlights of Neave’s 2019-20 season include concerts at Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music, Brown University, Feldman Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Williamsburg, and the Boise Chamber Music Series, among many others.



## RECENT RELEASES



# PROGRAMS

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## **Her Voice: Farrenc, Beach, Clarke, Higdon**

The Neave Trio performs works by four distinguished female composers spanning the Romantic era through the modern day. One of her most prominent pieces, Rebecca Clarke's Piano Trio showcases her unique harmonic language, influenced by both the French and British styles of the early 20th century, as well as by folk music. Amy Beach's trio was composed late in her career, and incorporates lush romantic melodies over impressionistic tones and colors. A prominent concert pianist and teacher, Louise Farrenc also achieved success as a composer. Her trio conveys inspiration from both the Classical and Romantic eras, but is widely regarded as a notable representation of early Romantic chamber music. Jennifer Higdon's Piano Trio is comprised of two movements: "Pale Yellow" and "Fiery Red." Of the work, Higdon writes, "The colors that I have chosen in both of the movement titles and in the music itself, reflect very different moods and energy levels, which I find fascinating, as it begs the question, can colors actually convey a mood?" Neave has recorded a corresponding album, which will be released on Chandos Records in fall 2019.

Farrenc: Piano Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 33  
Amy Beach: Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 150  
Rebecca Clarke: Piano Trio  
Jennifer Higdon: Piano Trio

## **Masterworks**

This program commemorates three master composers; Rachmaninov, Brahms, and Ravel. Rachmaninov was inspired to write *Trio élégiaque* No. 1 after hearing Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A Minor, which was composed in memory of Tchaikovsky's deceased friend Nicolai Rubinstein. Though Rachmaninov composed his trio when he was just 19 years old, it is completely characteristic of his compositional brilliance which would continue to develop in his adult life. Brahms' Piano Trio No. 1 was the first of the composer's

chamber works to be published. The work is notably grand in both scope and sound, often emulating an orchestral symphony within its organization and harmonic structure. Ravel composed his only piano trio after nearly six years of sketching and planning. But following the beginning of World War I in 1914, Ravel was motivated to quickly complete the work before enlisting in the French army. In a letter to Igor Stravinsky, he wrote, "The idea that I should be leaving at once made me get through five months' work in five weeks! My Trio is finished." Neave will record this masterful program on Chandos Records in fall 2020.

Rachmaninov: *Trio élégiaque* No. 1 in G minor  
Brahms: Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8  
Ravel: Piano Trio in A minor

## **French Moments**

This program highlights the only known piano trios written by French Impressionist masters Debussy, Roussel, and Fauré. Debussy composed his piano trio when he was 18 years old. The work was thought to be lost until it was discovered by one of Debussy's pupils, and was published over 100 years after it was composed. Though Roussel did not begin composing until his late twenties, his Piano Trio in E-flat Major is one of his earliest known works. Juxtaposed with these early works is Fauré's Piano Trio in D minor, which he composed one year before his death, when he was most likely completely deaf. *French Moments* corresponds with Neave's album of the same name, which was released on Chandos Records in June 2018. The album was featured on *WQXR's* list of "The Best New Recordings of 2018 (So Far)." Of the album, *WQXR* wrote, "The up-and-coming Neave Trio makes a compelling case for these lesser-known piano trios by Roussel, Debussy, and Fauré, coloring them with exquisite phrasing and delicate touch."

Debussy: Piano Trio in G Major  
Fauré: Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 120  
Roussel: Piano Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 2

## Honoring Astor Piazzolla with Carla Jablonski, mezzo soprano

The Neave Trio honors distinguished Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla in this program for piano trio and mezzo soprano, featuring Metropolitan Opera singer, Carla Jablonski. Works include Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, brand new arrangements of five Piazzolla songs for piano trio and voice by Argentine arranger Leonardo Suarez Paz, a piece for piano trio and mezzo soprano composed by Paz, and Robert Paterson's *Moon Trio*. Neave and Jablonski have recorded a corresponding album, which was released on Azica Records in fall 2018. Of the album, *Gramophone* acclaimed "The harmonically sophisticated arrangements by Leonardo Suárez Paz (son of Fernando, violinist in Piazzolla's second quintet) are superb." *Celebrating Piazzolla* was included on *The Arts Fuse's* list of the Best Classical Recordings of 2018.

Piazzolla: *Five Songs* for mezzo soprano and piano trio, arr. Leonardo Suarez Paz

Leonardo Suarez Paz: *Milonga de Los Monsters* for mezzo soprano and piano

Piazzolla: *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* for piano trio

Robert Paterson: *Moon Trio*



## Spanning the Eras

The Neave Trio showcases four extraordinary piano trios written by four exceptional composers of their respective eras; Classical, Romantic, 20th Century, and 21st Century. Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor is the centerpiece of the program, which was composed in the midst of World War II. The last movement of the piece employs a Jewish melody which Shostakovich also quoted in his String Quartet No. 8. This piece is paired with Schumann's richly passionate yet humorous trio, and Beethoven's trio which employs a somber exposition, followed by lighthearted variations. Eric Nathan's *Missing Words V* is the fifth in an ongoing series of compositions composed in homage to Ben Schott's book, *Schottenfreude*, a collection of newly created German words for the contemporary world.

Beethoven: Piano Trio in G Major, Op. 121  
"Kakadu Variations"

Schumann: Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 110

Shostakovich: Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67

Eric Nathan: *Missing Words V*

## AVAILABLE WORKS WITH ENSEMBLE

Beethoven: Triple Concerto, Op. 56  
for piano trio and orchestra

Ellen Taaffe Zwillich: Septet for piano trio  
and string quartet

Shostakovich: Seven Romances on Poems  
by Alexander Blok

Harold Meltzer: *Sinbad*



# NEAVE PIANO TRIO: *HER VOICE:* FARRENC, BEACH, CLARKE, HIGDON

*“The performances balance passion  
with sensitivity and grace,”*

—BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE



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# NEAVE PIANO TRIO: MASTERWORKS

*“...we have exceeded the gold standard  
and have now moved on to platinum.  
Yes, the Neave Trio is that good.”*

—FANFARE MAGAZINE

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