The Philadelphia Trio

Sunday, May 18, 2008
3:00pm

Albert and Hete Barthelmes Auditorium
611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA

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In Memoriam Gunda Hack

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History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown – today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthen national and international relations among individuals, organizations, businesses and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims German ancestry.

Calendar of Events at the German Society of Pennsylvania

**May**

Sun. May 18   “Wister and More!” Concert Series, The Philadelphia Trio, 3:00pm
Mon. May 26  Closed for Memorial Day holiday
Wed. May 28  Konversationsabend, “Der deutsche anti-Hitler Regime Widerstand aus Sicht der USA”, Presentation by Dr. Armin Mruck, of Towson University, 7:00pm

**June**

Sat. June 14   Saturday Film Fest, Beginning at 11:00am
   We will show a mix of German films that are old favorites and those we have never shown before. Please join us for this first all-day Film Fest. Check the website for a schedule of film start times.

Sat. June 28  Wandertag in Tyler Park with Wandermeisters Hella and Lew Volgenau, 10:00am

The Library has hours on Saturdays from 9:45am-12:30pm.
Since its founding in 1971, The Philadelphia Trio has performed extensively in the United States and Europe. They’ve initiated several chamber music series in the Philadelphia area and recorded for Centaur Records. Their extensive repertoire includes works that have been written for them, as well as the standard piano trio literature. The Trio also works with students in a summer chamber music program in Eagles Mere, PA—Music in the Mountains.

Elizabeth Keller, pianist, had her early training in Baltimore and attended the Curtis Institute, studying with Vengerova and Horszowski. She has appeared in recital and as soloist with the National and Baltimore Symphonies. Currently she is head of the piano department at the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr and a member of the adjunct faculty of Franklin and Marshall College.

Barbara Sonies, violinist, is a native of Chicago and attended the Eastman and Juiliard Schools of Music. She has appeared as soloist with several orchestras and performed with groups such as 20th Century Consort and Penn Contemporary Players. Currently she is leader of the Opera Company of Philadelphia and a member of the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra. Ms. Sonies teaches violin at Temple University and Swarthmore College.

Deborah Reeder, cellist, is a graduate of the Philadelphia Musical Academy. Her performing experience has been wide and varied, as a former member of the Philadelphia Orchestra as well as having played with the Amado String Quartet, Penn Contemporary Players, and many other groups. Presently Ms. Reeder is principal cellist of the Opera Company of Philadelphia and a member of the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra. She has her own studio and teaches at Temple University.

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**PROGRAM**

Trio in c minor, Op.1, No.3 (1794)  
Beethoven

- *Allegro con brio*
- *Andante cantabile con Variazioni*
- *Menuetto: Quasi Allegro*
- *Finale: Prestissimo*

Trio No.2 in b minor, Op.76 (1933)  
Joaquin Turina

- *Lento: Allegro molto moderato*
- *Molto vivace*
- *Lento: Andante mosso*

**INTERMISSION**

Trio No.1 in d minor, Op.63 (1847)  
Schumann

- *Mit Energie und Leidenschaft*
- *Lebhaft, doch nicht zu rasch*
- *Langsam, mit inniger Empfindung*
- *Mit Feuer*

Please join us in the Ratskeller after the concert for an informal reception with the musicians.
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) had become well established in Viennese musical circles by the time he concluded a contract in 1794 to have his first published works brought before the public, the Opus 1 piano trios. He had spent his first year in Vienna, 1792, studying with Haydn, engaged in a pupil-teacher relationship in which Beethoven felt considerable conflict and dissatisfaction. But he met with considerable success in the milieu of aristocrats who were vying with each other for social prominence and often used music to further their ends. Though public concerts were uncommon, there was an abundance of musical soireés at private homes and palaces. The Op. 1 trios were commissioned through a subscription of 123 aristocrats and premiered at a private affair given by Prince Lichnowsky in 1793. Haydn was present at this event and offered his unstinting praise, which subsequently netted Beethoven a handsome profit.

Joaquin Turina (1882-1949) was born and raised in Seville, and in 1905 moved to Paris where he studied with composer Vincent d'Indy. Although he came under the influence of Debussy, he developed a musical style which was inspired by Spanish folk music and his earlier contacts with Manuel de Falla. In 1914 he returned to Madrid where he spent the rest of his life teaching at the Madrid Conservatory and composing prolifically, establishing himself as one of the most highly regarded Spanish composers. He wrote three piano trios (two of which have been recorded by the Philadelphia Trio and are available for purchase). The second Trio, which is being performed here this afternoon, dates from 1933.

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) wrote the d minor piano trio in 1847 while living in Dresden. During this period of his life, he and his wife Clara frequently toured Europe as she pursued her professional piano career and he conducted. Schumann suffered throughout his life from a psychiatric disorder, and the preceding two years were almost entirely unproductive due to “nervous melancholy,” but in 1847, inspired by undertaking work on his opera Genoveva, he plunged into composition with great fervor. The first and second piano trios were written in between phases of working on this opera. This first trio was composed over a two-week period only.

-Notes by Ronald Anderson