



TRIO CONCERTANTE

Tim Steeves – piano

Nancy Dahn - violin

Simon Fryer – cello

Displacement

and

Dislocation

Beethoven: Piano Trio in G major Op.1 No.2

Adagio - Allegro vivace
Largo con espressione
Scherzo. Allegro
Finale. Presto

Chopin Piano Trio in G minor Op. 8

Allegro con fuoco
Scherzo
Adagio sostenuto
Finale. Allegretto

Dvorak Piano Trio in E Minor, Op. 90 'Dumky'

Lento Maestoso
Poco Adagio
Andante
Andante Moderato (Quasi Tempo di Marcia)
Allegro
Lento Maestoso

At the age of 17, in 1787, Beethoven took his first trip to Vienna. His new found independence was cut short all too soon by his mother's illness, and he was forced to return home to Bonn. She soon unfortunately died, and he was forced to provide and care for his two younger siblings, while his father lapsed further into helpless alcoholism. By 1792 he had done what he could to stabilise the family, and set off again for Vienna to study with Joseph Haydn. Beethoven worked hard to establish his career in the city, coped with Haydn's unpredictable attendance as a teacher, and in 1795 felt confident enough to publish a set of Piano Trios as his Opus 1. The relationship with Haydn was further soured by the elder's suggestion that 'by Ludwig van Beethoven, pupil of Haydn' be added to the title page - Beethoven would have none of it. The publication went ahead, proved financially very successful and firmly established Beethoven as a force to be reckoned with in his newly adopted city.



Beethoven as a young man



Chopin performs in Berlin, 1829

Shortly before Beethoven's 40th birthday, the young Chopin family prepared to make the move from Zelazowa Wola to Warsaw, Poland, with their 6 month old son, Fryderyk. In the coming years it became clear that Fryderyk possessed a prodigious talent and, as a young boy, he began to compose and perform publicly at the piano. By his teens, Chopin was developing a reputation both at home and abroad, and was traveling regularly. In 1829, at the age of nineteen, he was the guest of Royalty in Berlin, met Paganini in Warsaw and knew already that his destiny did not lie in his home city. In this year he composed his Piano Trio in g minor, Op. 8 and before the next year was out, had uprooted and settled in Paris, never to return to Warsaw.

In 1891, Antonin Dvorak was 50 years old. Dvorak had just been appointed Professor at the Prague Conservatory and had finished work on his Piano Trio Op.90, subtitled *Dumky*. Despite achieving great success in many major cities around the world, he had lately become frustrated over negative 'anti-Czech' reaction to his works from nearby important and influential Vienna. The support of prominent contemporary, Brahms, was heavily in his favour, but an offer from the National Conservatory of Music in New York City piqued his interest. With the promise of a wildly generous salary and the chance to distance himself from petty European rivalry, Dvorak accepted the offer and undertook a forty concert farewell tour of Moravia and Bohemia, in which the *Dumky* trio featured prominently, leaving straight for America in 1892. Unfortunately, the experience in New York was not all that Dvorak could have hoped for. Financial difficulties for the Conservatory rendered his salary unreliable and after three short years, Dvorak made the decision to return to Prague.



Dvorak with family and friends in New York, 1893