

Northern Third Piano Quartet at Brandon Music

The Northern Third Piano Quartet returns to perform at Brandon Music on June 16 for the fifth year in a row with an intriguing program, including an early one-movement string trio by Franz Schubert and “Spiegel im Spiegel” by Arvo Pärt for cello and piano. Dmitri Shostakovich’s Sonata for Viola and Piano, completed in the last weeks of the composer’s life will also be on the program. It offers a fleeting glimpse into the composer’s numerous musical influences throughout his life, including monumental quotes from Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata, and from Shostakovich’s own earlier works. The quartet will round out the program with one of the most beloved piano quartets. The Piano Quartet in c minor by Gabriel Fauré is the pinnacle of late nineteenth-century French romanticism.

The group includes violinist Sofia Hirsch, violist Elizabeth Reid, cellist John Dunlop, and pianist Alison Bruce Cerutti, all of whom are among Vermont top professional instrumentalists.

The quartet performs throughout Vermont to both high audience and critical acclaim. Music critic Jim Lowe (Times Argus) says they play “with the passion and skill they have acquired over their many years as professional Vermont musicians.” Founded in 2013, the group is noted for its strength of ensemble playing and emotive musicality, offering audiences a showcase of Vermont’s remarkable talent. They perform throughout Vermont at venues such as Norwich University, the Barre Opera House and SPRUCE Peak Performing Arts. They have also been heard on Vermont Public Radio. In the fall of 2018 the Northern Third Piano Quartet will premiere a new work by Vermont composer Erik Nielsen.

Biographies:

Sofia Hirsch, of Middlebury, began violin studies at the age of four in Waterloo, Ontario, and after moving to Vermont played for many years with the Vermont Youth Orchestra. Currently, she performs as a guest artist with the New York Chamber Soloists Orchestra and Handel Society of Hanover and Boston, and as a member of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

Violist **Elizabeth Reid** is in high demand as a musician in Vermont with her playing described as having a “deep and expressive sound” and a “natural musicality” (Times Argus). She studied viola performance at Western University and the Glenn Gould School in her native Canada. Reid is principal violist of the Middlebury Opera Orchestra, as well as playing regularly with the VSO, BCO, and Arioso. She has premiered numerous solo and chamber works in Canada and the U.S.

John Dunlop, of Richmond, has been principal cellist of the VSO, Burlington Chamber Orchestra, Opera North and the Green Mountain Opera Festival. He has performed as soloist with both the VSO and BCO, as well as many chamber music performances with area musicians. Dunlop began his cello studies with Norman Fischer and continued under Richard Kapuscinski at Oberlin Conservatory and Bonnie Hampton at the San Francisco Conservatory. He has worked with Trey Anastasio, of Phish, on many of his solo albums, and played for such artists as Bernadette Peters and Lyle Lovett.

Alison Bruce Cerutti has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout Vermont, and as a flute accompanist in the U.S. and France. For eight years, she studied with Louis Moyse and accompanied his flute master classes in Vermont and France, and in 2012 performed with his former students in St. Amour, France. Cerutti has played with TURNmusic for the 2015 production of *A Fleeting Animal*, *Arioso*, the Cerutti-Reid Duo, *Veritas*, and the Bruce Klavier Duo; and appeared as a soloist with the Burlington Civic Symphony Orchestra and the Vermont Philharmonic. She has premiered works by Vermont composers Lydia Busler, Erik Nielsen, David Gunn, Dennis Bathory-Kitsch, Michael Close, and Jacob Morton-Black. A Vermont native, she studied with Sylvia Parker and earned degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the Hartt School. She maintains an active piano studio and is an adjunct professor at Norwich University.

Concert begins at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20. Reservations are recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB.

Call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net for reservations or for more information. Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT 05733
www.brandon-music.net

This event is a part of Vermont Arts 2018, celebrating arts in Vermont.