



In **Convergence**, Trio Gaia explores the theme of conflict—both internal and external—and its resolution through music. In Nico Muhly’s *Common Ground*, the composer navigates the tension between individual voices and collective unity, highlighting dialogue between contrasting ideas. Janáček’s *Kreutzer Sonata*, arranged for piano trio, delves into the raw emotions of jealousy and passion, while Bartók’s *Contrasts* brings together folk-inspired rhythms and harmonic clashes, creating a soundscape of cultural and personal dissonance. The program culminates with Schubert’s *Piano Trio in E-flat major*, which at its heart exposes deep inner turmoil on an arduous path toward emotional reconciliation. This program offers a reflective parallel to today’s world, where divisions and struggles for resolution continue to shape our collective experience, and the search for unity persists despite discord.

SAMPLE PROGRAM (Total duration: 66’ plus speaking, length customizable)

Nico Muhly: *Common Ground*

Fresh and invigorating, Nico Muhly’s Common Ground opens the program with alternating moments of unified rhythmic drive and dreamy individual freedom, suggesting an optimistic duality in which opposing personalities and motivations can coexist.

Bela Bartók: “Sebes” from *Contrasts* arr. Trio Gaia

Bartók’s Contrasts, originally for violin, clarinet, and piano, sees new life in an arrangement for piano trio that highlights the explosivity with which antagonistic voices clash and merge.

Leos Janacek: *Adagio, con moto* from *The Kreutzer Sonata* arr. Coxe

Janacek’s The Kreutzer Sonata is a multi-faceted layering of stories- at its heart retelling a novel by Tolstoy in which an musical collaboration between a married woman and another man sparks a jealous rage by her husband. Depicting a conflict marked by intense impulse and heated emotion, the original scoring by Janacek is reimaged for piano trio by Stephen Coxe.

Franz Schubert: *Piano Trio no. 2 in E Flat Major*, D.929

Franz Schubert is revered like no other composer for the beauty with which he probes the ultimate human inner struggle between life and mortality. The Piano Trio no. 2, a towering pinnacle of the repertoire, reveals after its initial attitude of optimism and joy a profound confrontation with fate.

About Trio Gaia

Trio Gaia, New England Conservatory's most recent graduate piano trio in residence, formed in 2018 and is dedicated to offering audiences dynamic, personally relevant experiences inside and outside the concert hall. The trio has won 1st prize at the 2022 WDAV Young Chamber Musicians Competition, as well as prizes in the 2022 Premio Trio di Trieste International Music Competition, 2021 Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, and the 2019 Plowman National Chamber Music Competition.

Recent seasons have included appearances on stages nationally and internationally, including recitals for the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, Davidson College Concert Series, and Core Memory Music, as well as performances in Osaka, Japan as part of the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. The trio has also been presented in recitals in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Virginia, Michigan, and Panama City, Panama, with summer appearances at the Chamber Music Workshop of the Perlman Music Program and Yale University's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. In the 23/24 season, Trio Gaia debuts at the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, the Harvard Musical Association, the Shouse Institute of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, and was been awarded a Creative Residency at the Perlman Music Program to bring new life to its integrative programming of works beyond the classical piano trio canon. In 2020, during the onset of the pandemic, Trio Gaia gave virtual performances for Music for Food, Massachusetts Peace Action, NEC's Black Student Union, and Opus Illuminate, a series dedicated to music by composers underrepresented in classical music. In their programming, the trio is equally passionate about reviving standard works and championing new works, while also experimenting with original arrangements and compositions.

Dedicated to sharing classical music in the community, Trio Gaia is sought-after for its educational programming for students, seniors, and everyone in between. The trio has crafted weeklong residencies for both the Panama Jazz Festival and the Virginia Arts Festival in support of its mission to invite students into the experience of creating chamber music. Previously, Trio Gaia served as Community Performance & Partnership fellows at NEC, and most recently they were invited to perform and teach at PRIZM International Music Festival in Tennessee.

<https://www.triogaia.com/>

