

Fripp Island Hosts Merling Trio

Written by Editor

Tuesday, 15 February 2011 12:16 -



The Merling Trio, recognized as one of today's premier ensembles, will play in concert on Sunday, February 27th 5 pm, at the Fripp Island Community Center. This performance is not to be missed. A truly international group, the Trio brings together musicians from Polish, Japanese, and Dutch backgrounds. The Merling Trio has been hailed as a brilliantly distinguished group endowed with remarkable gifts of communication, magnificent precision, and an impeccable blend of sound. The Trio made its New York debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1993, and was named a finalist for the Naumburg Foundation Chamber Music Award in 1994. Tickets at the door are \$20; students \$10. A free Fripp pass is available at the island gate. Attendees are invited to meet the artists at a catered event following the performance.

The Merling Trio has given numerous recitals throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Members of the Trio have performed with orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, the Honolulu Symphony, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, and the South Carolina Philharmonic, under the baton of such notable conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Simon Rattle, and Christoph Eschenbach. Recent trio performances include concerts for the Lagerstrom Concerts Series at Caltech, the Texas Friends of Chamber Music Series, the Jewel Box Series in Chicago, the Charleston Chamber Music Society, Merkin Hall, and the Antioch College Professional Piano Series. The 2010-11 season will include tours of Georgia, Colorado, Utah, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Ohio, and Michigan.

Several contemporary composers have written works for the Merling Trio, and in 1993, they commissioned and premiered C. Curtis-Smith's *Second Piano Trio*. In February 1998, the trio returned to Carnegie Hall for a sold-out performance of a new work by Terry Winter-Owens, commissioned by the Merling Trio with a Commissioning Grant from the American Composers

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Forum. In 2003, the trio premiered Frank Proto's

Quartet for Piano and Strings

with bassist Tom Knificat St. John's Smith Square in London, England. Performances by the Merling Trio have been broadcast widely on television and radio, including WNYC, WFMT 98.7 in Chicago, Interlochen Public Radio, and Peachstate Public Radio.

In residence at the School of Music at Western Michigan University, members of the trio have also been faculty members at the Schlern International Music Festival and the ENCORE School for Strings. Renowned educators, their students hold positions in major orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the world. Festival appearances include the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Pensacola Summer Music Festival, the Skaneateles Festival, the Saugatuck Chamber Music Festival, and the Fontana Festival of Art and Music. Recent educational outreach activities include performances and master classes for the California Music Teachers Association, the Music Teachers National Association, the Hawaii International Arts and Humanities Conference, and the American String Teachers Association National Conference.

The Merling Trio has released a number of critically-acclaimed recordings. Their first CD, a collaboration with conductor Dennis Russell Davies, featured works of C. Curtis-Smith and was released by Albany Records in 1995. About the CD, Fanfare wrote, "The composer could not ask for better interpreters." *Piano Trio Classics* included works by Haydn, Mozart, Brahms, Schumann, and Liszt and was released by Pamplin Records in 2001. About Centaur Records' 2006 release of the trio's recording of works by Piazzolla and Proto, the American Record Guide said, "The Merlings play with a properly stylistic balance between abandon and control. This is an unusual and beautifully played program." Their most recent recording, "postcards in e", features works of Shostakovich and Dvorak, and was issued on the MSR Classics label in 2009 to rave reviews.

The evening promises to be memorable. Concertgoers will enjoy artistry, masterful technique and a captivating performance.

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