



SOUTH BAY CHAMBER MUSIC PRESENTS

THE THIES CONSORT

OCTOBER 18, 2020 | 3 PM PDT |
VIRTUAL CONCERT

www.sbcms.net

Classical Concerts in Southern California

Robert Thies, Artistic Director

THE THIES CONSORT



Robert Thies, piano
Lucia Micarelli, violin
Eric Byers, cello

The Schumann-Mendelssohn Connection

Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, op. 63..... Schumann
Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor, op. 66.....Mendelssohn



South Bay Chamber Music Society

The South Bay Chamber Music Society is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1963 by renowned violinist Ruth Breytspraak to promote the appreciation of great music in the South Bay. Our aim is to present the highest quality chamber music performances featuring the finest musicians in Southern California.

For the major part of our funding, we rely on the generous donations of individuals. As our organization is run entirely by volunteers, the majority of proceeds go to support the musicians' honorariums. If you would like to contribute, please [click here](#).

The concerts are also made possible by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, by the County of Los Angeles Arts Commission, by the Colburn Foundation, and by the City of Rolling Hills. Our corporate sponsors include Boeing and the Williams Companies, Inc.

Board of Directors

Robin Paterson, President
Jim Paterson, Vice President
Toni Crichton and John Williams, Co-Treasurers
Linda Jenson, Secretary

Jan Simon • Jerald Simon • Ron Smith
Elaine Trotter • Wendy Wolf

Artistic Director

Robert Thies

Ensemble in Residence

The Thies Consort

Associates

Curtis Green • Christina Kim • Jim Ryan
Rod Raynovich • Tom Van Huss • Mike Wheeler

South Bay Chamber Music Society
Post office Box 2313 • Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274
sbcms.net • www.facebook.com/SBCMS.music



The Thies Consort

The Thies Consort performs a wide range of works of varying instrumentation and size, thus allowing for innovative and unique programming with musical continuity based on a style, composer, or other concept.

Robert borrows from the talents of many musicians from Los Angeles and beyond to bring life, energy, and purpose to these unique programs. Typically the program is designed first, and then the musicians are approached. This format allows the program itself to be the primary focus.

When the Consort made its debut for the South Bay Chamber Music series, founder and pianist, Sidney Stafford remarked afterwards, "I think this is the best concert our organization has ever presented in the past 46 years." That first program centered around the great French composers and featured Ravel's monumental Trio in A minor, and Franck's Piano Quintet.

The following year, the Consort presented music from the former Soviet Republics, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Estonia, and Georgia, entitled Beyond Russia. In 2010 and 2011, the Thies Consort presented two programs profiling Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms, combining their chamber music with their celebrated art song. And in 2013, The Thies Consort commemorated the 60th anniversary of the death of Russian master, Sergei Prokofiev, by presenting his complete Chamber Sonatas, all considered masterpieces.

To catch an upcoming performance, please check the [concert schedule](#)

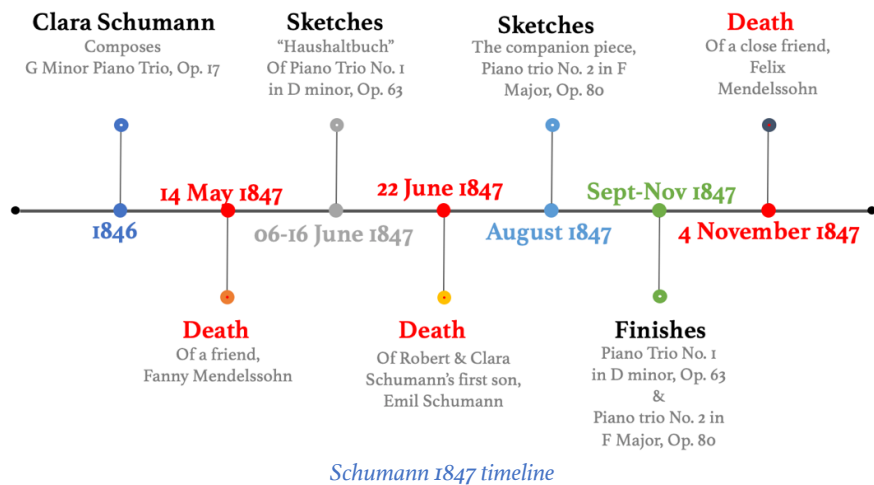
To book The Thies Consort, please send an email to Robert at rthiespianist@gmail.com.



Program Notes

Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, op. 63

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)



Schumann by Hadi Karimi

The year 1847 was a painful one for Schumann. He lost his friend Fanny Mendelssohn, his first son Emil Schumann, and his dear friend Felix Mendelssohn all in the span of seven months. Schumann finished composing this beautiful trio a few months after losing his son. Many say that this trio was inspired by his wife's trio from the previous year; that may be so, but the grief of Fanny Mendelssohn and Emil Schumann must have been a bigger factor.

Even though Schumann permanently injured his fingers while using his invention in attempt to strengthen his fingers, his greatest music outputs involve piano, whether it be a solo piano piece, Lieder, piano trio, quartet, or a quintet. This trio is no exception as the timbre of piano gently embraces the strings and the strings return the warmth.

Schumann's quintessential Romantic expressions are built with his inner homage to the classical structure with the four distinct movements, a scherzo movement, Sonata form, fugues, and more. The first movement, *Mit Energie und Leidenschaft* (with energy and passion), surely comes with energy and passion, but are glued together by a layer of tenderness in the middle section. The piano switches back and forth between the arpeggios and chords to not only converse with the violin and cello, but to allow them to shine individually. The second movement, *Lebhaft, doch nicht zu rasch* (lively, but not too quickly), carries on the *energie* from the first movement to add *lebhaft*. He allocates the third movement, *Langsam, mit inniger Empfindung* (slowly, with sincere feeling), to reflect his grief. The cantabile lines portray his pensive and sorrowful mind. The fourth movement, *Mit Feuer* (with fire), kindles a fire of hope with the passionate statements made by each and all instruments, leading to a confident and positive conclusion.

To listen to Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, op. 63, [please click here.](#)

To listen to its companion trio in F Major, op. 80, [please click here.](#)



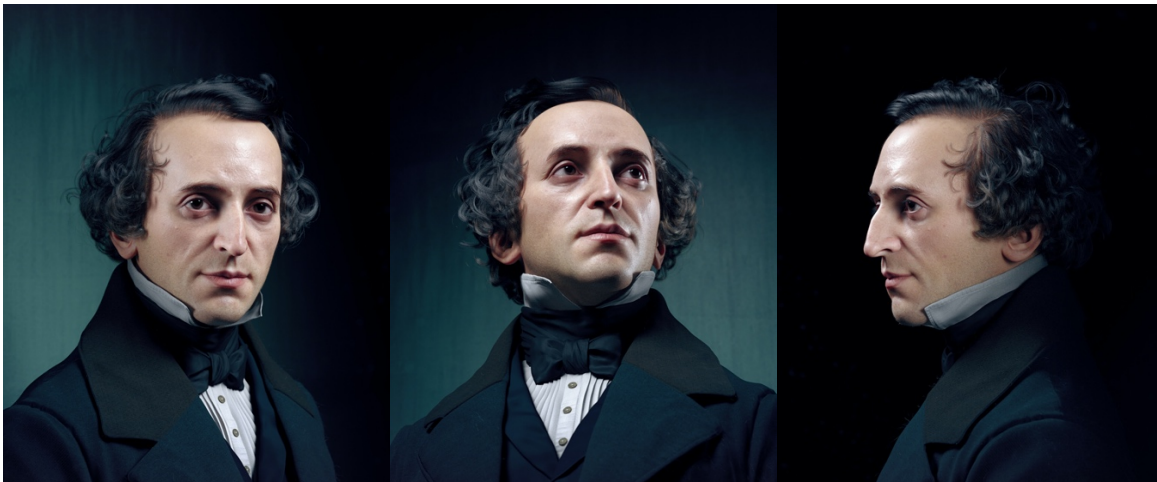
Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, op. 66

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Two years before Schumann's Piano Trio No. 1 and Mendelssohn's untimely death, Mendelssohn composed his Piano Trio No. 2 that ended up being the last chamber work that the composer saw published.

Mendelssohn's physical health began to fail in 1844, but there is no sign of illness nor frailty in his Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, op. 66. Although he initially presented this trio to his sister Fanny, it is dedicated to the violinist and composer Louis Spohr. His poor health did not stop him from performing the trio with Louis Spohr on the violin and himself at the piano. Each movement possesses its unique characteristics, and the contrasts between each movement are almost startling.

The first movement, *Allegro energico e con fuoco* (energetically joyful and fiery), follows the traditional sonata form, yet it dazzles the listeners by the colors of Romanticism. The second movement, *Andante espressivo* (slowly/peacefully expressive), evokes his *Lieder ohne Worte* (Songs without Words) and his peaceful, sacred choral works. The calm atmosphere is suddenly interrupted by the third movement, *Scherzo: Molto allegro quasi presto* (Joke: very joyful and almost fast). It is ironically the most challenging movement to play for all of the instruments. Mendelssohn described this movement as "a trifle nasty to play." The virtuosic race recalls the dancing fairies of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The fourth movement, *Finale: Allegro appassionato* (passionately joyful), truly brings out his admiration for the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The chorale melody of "Gelobet seist du, Jesus Christ" ("Praise to You, Jesus Christ") is one of the main ingredients of this final movement that ends in a triumphant statement.



Felix Mendelssohn by Hadi Karimi

To listen to Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, op. 66, [please click here](#). To listen to his *Songs without Words*, [please click here](#). To listen to Bach's arrangement of "Gelobet seist du, Jesus Christ," [please click here](#).

To see more of Hadi Karimi's work, [please click here](#).

- Christina Kim



Support Us

Your tax-deductible contribution is gratefully appreciated. For the major part of our funding, we rely on the generous donations of individuals. Our organization is run entirely by volunteers. Your donation primarily supports the performing musicians.

Please print out this form and submit with your donation. Thank you!



South Bay Chamber Music Society

P.O. Box 2313

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

I (We) wish to support the current concert season of the South Bay Chamber Music Society with a tax-deductible contribution in the category checked below:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Circle | \$1000 and up | <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$250 | | |

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____



Our Next Concert

Pacific Trio

November 22, 2020 at 3:00 PM PST



Pacific Trio

Edith Orloff piano; Roger Wilkie violin; John Walz cello

Piano Trio in B flat Major, K. 502..... Mozart
Bergerettes Martinu
Piano Trio in B Major, Op. 8 Brahms

