



The Camarata Trio

Robert Firdman, guest artist, violin
Luis Biava, cello
Suzanne Newcomb, piano

Sunday, October 2, 2022
4:00 pm

Music at St. Mary Concert Series

Program

Trio in F Major for violin, cello, and piano, Op. 80 (1847)

Robert Schumann

Sehr lebhaft
Mit innigem Ausdruck
In mäßiger Bewegung
Nicht zu rasch

Intermission

Sonata in A Major, Op. 69, for cello and piano

Ludwig van Beethoven

Allegro ma non tanto
Scherzo: Allegro molto
Adagio cantabile – Allegro vivace

Requiebros

Gaspar Cassadó

The Camarata Trio is comprised of three Ohio musicians: Otterbein piano faculty and First Community member Suzanne Newcomb with Kenyon string faculty members Ariane Sletner and Luis Biava. The term *Camarata* combines the concept of camaraderie and the essence of chamber music. The trio has performed together for over a decade.

Starting in mid-2014, Camarata presented the complete Piano Trios of Mozart and Beethoven at a series of ten concerts at Mozart's Café in Clintonville. They finished this monumental undertaking in January 2016.

Their inclusion of a contemporary work at each recital earned them a grant from The Johnstone Fund for New Music. In March of 2016, Camarata presented a recital at the Garden Theatre in the Short North featuring their entire contemporary repertoire. This exciting performance, produced by the Johnstones, included works by Augusta Read Thomas, Jennifer Higdon, Elliott Carter, Leonard Bernstein, Arvo Pärt, and more.

Their premiere performance of *Babel*, with baritone Daniel Neer and composed by Jennifer Merkwowitz, was featured at the "Music by Women" Festival in Spring 2021.

In addition to concerts at Otterbein University and Mozart's, the Camarata Trio has performed in recital series at Kenyon College, St. John's Episcopal Church (Worthington), the New Albany and Bexley Libraries, and Sunday at Central. The Camarata Trio has performed twice at the historic Orange Johnson House in Worthington, with Suzanne performing on the newly refurbished 1824 Tröndlin fortepiano. In the fall of 2021, they performed Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the Greater Columbus Community Orchestra. Most recently, they presented full recitals as part of the Cambridge Chamber Music Series at First Community Church in Marble Cliff, performing works by Beethoven, Mozart, Brahms, Turina, and more.

The Camarata Trio thanks our guest artist, violinist **Robert Firdman**, for joining us today. Mr. Firdman graduated from the Eastman School of Music with BM and MM degrees in performance and literature, studying with Donald Weilerstein and Charles Castleman. Before joining the Columbus Symphony, he was an associate member of the Rochester Philharmonic under the direction of David Zinman and was also concertmaster of the National Orchestral Association in New York City which performed numerous times in Carnegie Hall. He participated in the Spoleto festival and played at the Incontri Pomeridiani Concerts around the city.

Mr. Firdman has been an adjunct violin teacher at Ohio Wesleyan University and Kenyon College. He also performed with the Chamber Music Society of Dublin and was a member of the Carpe Diem String Quartet and performed regularly with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.

Recently, as a frequent soloist with the New Albany Symphony, Mr. Firdman performed Vivaldi's Four Seasons. He has also played solos with the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra and went to Italy as a coach and yoga instructor with the Chamber Music Connection.

Robert maintains an active studio and is co-concertmaster of the New Albany Symphony and the Camarata Chamber Orchestra.

Luis Biava is principal cello of the Columbus Symphony and music director of the New Albany Symphony, Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Camarata and Opera Libera in Philadelphia. An avid chamber musician, he has performed at Bargemusic in New York, Casals Festival in Puerto Rico and plays with the Camarata and Biava-Uribe Trios. He is a frequent concerto soloist and guest conductor and was cover conductor for the Philadelphia Orchestra in Saratoga Springs. As Music Director of the New Albany Symphony, he has conducted Hilary Hahn, Jon Kimura Parker, David Finckel, Blanca Uribe, Michael Feinstein, and other artists. He often performs and conducts in his native Colombia and with the Columbus Symphony in community and educational concerts and Ballet Met's The Nutcracker. In 2021, conducting highlights include the world premiere of Adam Roberts's Percussion Concerto with Cameron Leach and the New Albany Symphony, opening concerts for the dedication of the new Hinson Amphitheater in New Albany, a celebration of the Suffragette Movement with the Columbus Symphony at the Ohio Statehouse, and a winter concert with the Temple University Orchestra, Choir and Jazz Ensemble. He also performed as soloist in Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante with the CSO. Mr. Biava holds a bachelor's degree from University of Michigan and a bachelor's and master's from the Juilliard School. He studied cello with Leonard Rose, Samuel Mayes, Elsa Hilger, Oliver Edel, and his uncle Miguel Uribe and conducting with Gustav Meier, David Zinman, Mark Gibson, Antoni Ros-Marbà, Michael Jinbo and his father, Luis Biava.

Dr. Suzanne Newcomb is an active solo and collaborative artist who has performed as soloist or on stage with nearly every orchestra in the region. In the spring of 2023, Suzanne will perform concerti by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and Florence Price. An associate musician at the CSO, she also appears regularly in recitals with Columbus' professional musicians. In addition to Camarata appearances, she performed in two VIVO chamber music concerts in 2021, as well as in a solo presentation at the Columbus Museum of Art.

Suzanne received her MM and DMA degrees in piano performance from The Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, studying piano under Leon Fleisher. She completed her Bachelor of Music degree at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Suzanne has been teaching piano full-time for 37 years. She stays involved in her continuing education and professional associations. She has presented lectures to national audiences at both the 2015 and 2019 MTNA Conferences in Las Vegas and Spokane, respectively. In March 2023, she will be honored as an MTNA Foundation Fellow. Suzanne also presented a lecture-recital on Women Composers at the NKU Piano Pedagogy seminar in February 2019. After serving as president at both the district and state levels of MTNA, she currently serves as chair of the Independent Music Teachers Forum for the Central East District of OhioMTA. She frequently adjudicates for statewide piano events such as Buckeye, CMTA, the CSO Young Musicians, and MTNA competitions.

Dr. Newcomb is a senior lecturer and staff pianist at Otterbein University. She has a successful home studio in Upper Arlington of about fifteen enthusiastic pre-college students.