



The Clavier Trio

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By DENNIS ROONEY

The Clavier Trio began its Weill Hall programme (1 October) with a bracing reading of Copland's early trio *Vitebsk*. The clashing lines of violinist **Arkady Fomin** and recently appointed cellist **Jesus Castro-Balbi** showed with a substantial improvement his arrival has made to this Texas-based ensemble. String intonation and vibrato were notably more assured, producing greater tonal and dynamic subtlety in return. Those qualities also nourished trios by Mozart (in C major K548) and Brahms (in C major op.87). Also on the programme was Arvo Pärt's *Mozart-Adagio*, his 1997 revision of a 1992 original, dedicated to the memory of violinist Oleg Kagan (1946-90). Perhaps both the Mozart and Brahms trios would have profited from a more animated approach, but everything was sympathetically performed.