

# OXFORD PHILHARMONIC PIANO TRIO



**FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025, 7:30 PM**  
**WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK**

**Presented at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall by MidAmerica Productions**

1,497th Concert Worldwide, 1,157th in New York, 702nd in Carnegie Hall

Peter Tiboris: Founder, General Director, and Music Director Emeritus

Sir John Rutter, CBE: Conductor Laureate

# Oxford Philharmonic Piano Trio

Friday, March 14, 2025, 7:30 PM  
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York

FRANZ SCHUBERT  
(1797-1828)

Notturmo in E-flat Major, Op. 148 (D. 897)

JENNIFER HIGDON  
(b. 1962)

Piano Trio No. 1, Pale Yellow

REENA ESMAIL  
(b. 1983)

Saans (Breath)

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH  
(1906-1975)

Piano Trio No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 8

## INTERMISSION

JOHANNES BRAHMS  
(1833-1897)

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major, Op. 87

I. Allegro Moderato

II. Andante con moto

III. Scherzo

IV. Allegro giocoso

**Carmine Lauri**, Violin

**Peter Adams**, Cello

**Russell Hirshfield**, Piano

# The Program

Schubert's Notturmo in E-flat Major, also known as Adagio, D. 897 is a single movement piece for piano trio, composed in 1827. Despite its relatively short duration, it encapsulates Schubert's lush harmonic language and his gift for creating emotionally rich music.

Prolific composer Jennifer Higdon's Piano Trio No. 1 was composed in 2003. With each movement representing a different color, tonight we will hear 'Pale Yellow'. The music mirrors all the characteristics of the color by creating tranquility as well as evoking a sense of lightness.

Composed in 2010, Saans (Breath) is a piano trio containing innovative fusion of musical elements and Esmail's cultural heritage by blending Indian and Western classical music. The ebb and flow explored in the piece represents the concept of breath within the music, with fluidity between instruments being apparent throughout.

Composed when Shostakovich was only 16, his Piano Trio No. 1 is aptly energetic and youthful feeling. Despite being a single movement work, it encompasses many dynamic contrasts and provides a great deal of emotional intensity. The rhythmic piano part provides a strong backbone for the strings to weave independent melodic lines over.

Brahms's Piano Trio No. 2 can be described as none other than a masterful work. It is celebrated for its emotional depth and seamless integration between instruments which Brahms does so well. The four movements all bring their own character and contrasts to the work without interfering with the overall emotional arc of the piece.

# The Artists



## **Carmine Lauri**, Violin

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Carmine Lauri is the Concertmaster of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and has served as co-leader and leader of the London Symphony Orchestra for the past 25 years. Born in 1971, he started playing the violin at the age of four. In 1988, he was awarded an Associated Board scholarship to continue his studies at the Royal Academy of Music with Maurice Hasson and Zakhar Bron.

Carmine has, on multiple occasions, been called at short notice to replace an indisposed soloist. Most recently, he made his debut performing Paganini's *Violin Concerto No. 1* under such circumstances at the Berlin Philharmonie with the Berliner Symphoniker.

As a regular soloist with the Oxford Philharmonic, he was the first to perform both Wieniawski concertos, as well as the Korngold and Glazunov concertos, with conductors including Sir Antonio Pappano and Dr. Marios Papadopoulos, the Music Director and founder of the OPO. Dr. Papadopoulos' charisma and musical vision have been an inspiration to this unique institution of uncompromising standards. Carmine has also performed other concertos ranging from Bach, Vivaldi, and Bottesini to Piazzolla with the orchestra. He has appeared in numerous chamber music concerts with principal members of the OPO and was invited to join Maxim Vengerov in duo performances as a soloist accompanied by the orchestra, both in Oxford and at the Barbican Hall in London.

Carmine enjoys a close and highly respected collaboration as Leader of the Orchestra, earning recognition from visiting conductors including Valery Gergiev, Yuri Temirkanov, and Vladimir Ashkenazy over his 15-year tenure.

As a soloist with other world-class orchestras, Carmine has performed numerous concertos, particularly from the Romantic repertoire, which is closest to his heart. He has appeared as a soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, Brno Czech State Philharmonic, Orquesta Municipal de Caracas, Malta Philharmonic, Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, Guanajuato Symphony in Mexico, and others. His passion remains in performing works that showcase both technical virtuosity and deep romanticism, particularly the music of Paganini, Wieniawski, Sarasate, and their contemporaries.

He is particularly known for his interpretations of salon pieces for violin and piano, prioritizing spontaneity of expression and flair, with the aim of reviving the magic of the incomparable "old school of violin playing." He pays tribute to the legendary violin masters, including Jascha Heifetz, Ivry Gitlis, Maurice Hasson, and Nathan Milstein, who remain his lifelong inspirations. His two CDs, *Bravura* and *Violin Extravaganza*, showcase his talent and feature highly demanding repertoire performed with masterful virtuosity and natural musical panache. Carmine is especially fond of transcriptions by the great Jascha Heifetz and has personally researched Heifetz's collection in America for unpublished transcriptions and alterations.

As a long-time member of the LSO, Carmine has led the orchestra under distinguished conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Sir Antonio Pappano, and Gianandrea Noseda. He had the privilege of leading the orchestra in concerts for both Sir Colin Davis and Bernard Haitink in their final performances before their passing. He has also premiered two violin concertos with the LSO, performing at both the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall.

Carmine has earned worldwide recognition for his contributions to film soundtracks, having led the LSO in numerous recordings, including *Harry Potter*, *Star Wars*, and the recent film *Maestro*. His distinctive playing, charisma, and experience have attracted renowned composers such as John Williams and Alexandre Desplat, who have specifically requested him to lead their projects. Lauri regularly performs on prestigious Stradivari instruments, ranging from early to Golden Period to late examples, generously loaned to him by various institutions and private collectors. He has collaborated with many international soloists who have invited him to join them for surprise encores at the end of their concerto performances, both as Leader of the Oxford Philharmonic and with the London Symphony Orchestra. These include Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Viktoria Mullova, Nikolaj Znaider, pianists Cédric Tiberghien and Simon Trpčeski, and the gypsy violinist Roby Lakatos.

Carmine is a distinguished musical ambassador for his native country, Malta. In recognition of his achievements as a world-class violinist and soloist, he was awarded the Honour of Member of the Order of Merit (M.O.M). He has also been elected both an Associate and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London for his outstanding contributions to music.



## **Peter Adams, Cello**

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Peter Adams holds the position of Solo Cello with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra. His career can truly be described as meteoric. While most musicians are still in school, the sixteen-year-old Peter was already playing in the orchestra of the London Festival Ballet.

By the time he was 21, he had become principal cellist of both the London String Orchestra and the London City Ballet. Perhaps even more remarkably, in the same year, he became a Professor of Viola da Gamba and Baroque Cello at the Royal Academy of Music—the youngest professor in the Academy's history.

Not content with these achievements, four years later, Peter embarked on a two-year period of further study in America at Indiana University, taking lessons and masterclasses with such legendary figures as Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, János Starker, Franco Gulli, Rostislav Dubinsky, and Paul Tortelier. After returning from America, he continued his studies with William Pleeth.

Peter's orchestral career has earned him principal positions with the English String Orchestra, Brighton Philharmonic, and Oxford Philharmonic, which he joined in 2007, along with many guest appearances. Throughout his life, Peter has had a deep love for chamber music. He was a founding member of the Rogeri Trio and, for twelve years, the cellist of the Bochmann Quartet. His chamber music collaborators in recent years have included Maxim Vengerov, Lang Lang, Nigel Kennedy, Robert Cohen, Jeremy Menuhin, Raphael Wallfisch, and Natalie Clein, among many others.

Since the start of 2017, Peter has maintained a busy schedule touring worldwide with Nigel Kennedy's Quintet, appearing at venues such as the Berlin Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, Sydney Opera House, Royal Festival Hall, and Royal Albert Hall, to name just a few. Over the past twelve months, he has performed concerto appearances featuring works by Elgar, Schumann, Brahms (Double Concerto), Beethoven (Triple Concerto), and Bloch (Schelomo).

Peter has an extensive list of recordings to his name, both as a soloist and in chamber and orchestral settings, as well as numerous broadcasts on BBC and Classic FM.

Throughout his career, he has maintained a strong interest in early music through his teaching, solo appearances on the viola da gamba, and his directorship of the Elizabethan Consort of Viols.

Peter plays a cello by G.B. Rogeri, dated 1697.



## **Russell Hirshfield, Piano**

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Pianist Russell Hirshfield has received critical acclaim for his original and powerful interpretive insights across a wide repertoire. He has regularly performed recitals around the world, giving concerts in the United States, Brazil, China, Belgium, England, Serbia, Costa Rica, and South Africa, including recent performances at the Sheldonian Theatre and

Holywell Music Room in Oxford, as well as the Royal Flemish Academy in Brussels. Parma Recordings will release his recording of American Piano Music in 2025. His album Alexander Scriabin: Early Works (Navona, 2020) has been featured in radio broadcasts in at least twenty countries, showcasing a brilliant selection of Scriabin's earlier and lesser-known works for solo piano. Acclaim for Alexander Scriabin: Early Works in International Piano, Pianist Magazine, and Fanfare led to an invitation to perform the Scriabin Piano Concerto with the Oxford Philharmonic in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. His recording Seeker: The Piano Music of Piet Swerts (Phaedra Records), released in 2017, was featured on Belgian Radio Klara and received critical acclaim in the Netherlands (Opusklassiek), Belgium (Flanders Art Magazine), and the United States (American Record Guide). Mad Dances: American Music for Saxophone and Piano, with saxophonist Dan Goble, was released by Albany Records.

Russell Hirshfield trained in New Haven, Connecticut, and later studied at the Eastman School of Music, Boston University, and the University of Colorado, studying with Robert Spillman, James Avery, Anthony di Bonaventura, and Alvin Chow. He is a Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University. Hirshfield has presented master classes and conference lectures throughout the United States and abroad. He was a member of the Artist Faculty for the 2022 Bermuda Piano Festival and also presented at the 2019 International Piano Festival in Bačka Palanka, Serbia, the 2015 Piano Master Class Series at New York University, and the 2013 Oxford Piano Festival.

# Upcoming MAP Performances

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**Saturday, March 15, 2025, 8:30 PM**

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, New York

The **New England Symphonic Ensemble** with distinguished choirs from around the country debut the U.S. premiere of Paul A. Aitken's *Missa Pro Terra: A Mass for the Earth*, Randall Thompson's *Frostiana: Seven Country Songs* by Robert Frost, and *Tapwe: Songs of Truth*.

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**Saturday, March 22, 2025, 8:30 PM**

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, New York

The **New England Symphonic Ensemble** performs Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67 and Mozart's Mass in C Major, K. 317, "Coronation". Additional highlights include *Shenandoah* arranged by James Erb and Tarik O'Regan's *Triptych* with participating choirs from around the country.

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**Sunday, April 6, 2025, 1:00 PM**

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, New York

The **New England Symphonic Ensemble**, with participating choruses from across the United States, performs choral works by Monteverdi, Handel, Vivaldi, and Bach, alongside Elaine Hagenberg's contemporary work *Illuminare* and the world premiere of Loretta K. Notareschi's *Climate Mass*.

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**Sunday, April 20, 2025, 1:00 PM**

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, New York

The **New England Symphonic Ensemble** and participating choirs perform Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*. **Cailin Marcel Manson** conducts Mendelssohn's Sinfonia X in B minor and Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's *Grass—Poem for Piano and Orchestra*.



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