



HERMITAGE PIANO TRIO 2019-20 BIOGRAPHY

“The Hermitage Piano Trio turned in a performance of such power and sweeping passion that it left you nearly out of breath.” – *The Washington Post*

Descending from the great Russian musical tradition, the three-time Grammy Award-nominated Hermitage Piano Trio is distinguished by its exuberant musicality, interpretative range, and sumptuous sound. In the same way that St. Petersburg’s venerable Hermitage State Museum both represents the very essence and history of Russia while also using its collection to embrace and promote cultures from around the world, the Hermitage Piano Trio embodies the majesty of its Russian lineage while at the same time including in its immense repertoire works from the great European tradition to more contemporary American pieces. Following a recent performance, *The Washington Post* raved that “...more striking even than the individual virtuosity was the profound level of integration among the players, who showed a rare degree of ensemble from beginning to end.”

Based in the United States, the Trio has performed to similarly tremendous acclaim for audiences on major chamber music series in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Tucson, Portland (OR), San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), and New Orleans. Recent seasons have featured performances all over North America, including those at the Portland (OR) Friends of Chamber Music, Art Power! At UC San Diego, and the Corpus Christi Chamber Music Society. Recently signed to a multiple-album recording deal with Reference Recordings, the Trio’s debut CD – released in June 2019 – is comprised of the piano trios of Sergei Rachmaninoff: Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor; Trio élégiaque No. 2 in D minor, Op. 9; and *Vocalise*. Joining many other reviewers, *The Strad* lauded the release, praising its “outstanding playing in intense, heartfelt performances.”

A hallmark of the Trio is its polished skill in performing an enormous variety of music, and its wide, well-thought-out repertoire ranges from Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Arensky, Glinka, and Tchaikovsky to Schubert, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Dvorak, and Brahms – the source of many of their invitations to return. A rarity in the chamber-music world, this elite trio is comprised of three musicians who are noted soloists in their own right. In a career already spanning forty-five countries on five continents, violinist Misha Keylin has attracted particular attention with his world-premiere CD series of the seven Henri Vieuxtemps violin concertos and showpieces, released by Naxos. These recordings have already sold hundreds of thousands of copies worldwide and have garnered numerous press accolades and awards, including “Critic’s Choice” by *The New York Times*, *Gramophone*, and *The Strad*.



Hailed as “a brilliant cellist” by the legendary Mstislav Rostropovich, Sergey Antonov went on to prove his mentor’s proclamation when he became one of the youngest cellists ever awarded the gold medal at the world’s premier musical contest, the quadrennial International Tchaikovsky Competition. Antonov’s entry into this elite stratum of sought-after classical artists has already placed him on stages at world-renowned venues from Russia’s Great Hall at the Moscow Conservatory to Suntory Hall in Tokyo. And pianist Ilya Kazantsev – praised by *The Washington Post* as “virtually flawless” – has performed as recitalist and soloist with orchestras in Russia, Canada, Europe, and the United States. Mr. Kazantsev’s many awards and honors include first prize at the Nikolai Rubinstein International Competition (France); he also won the International Chopin Competition (Russia) and the 2007 & 2008 World Piano Competitions.

For more information, please visit www.hermitagepianotrio.com

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