

# the Thoreau Piano Trio

“Art is not tame.”

*Henny D. Thoreau*



Three internationally acclaimed artists, with concert appearances on four continents and numerous accolades including a Grammy nomination, formed the Thoreau Piano Trio in 2011 during a philosophical back-stage conversation at a music festival in Vermont. Drawn together by a shared spirit, Thoreau Piano Trio was created with the mission to engage with audiences, cut through tradition, and reveal unexpected connections between music, art, literature and philosophy.

In the spirit of Henry David Thoreau, the quintessential New England philosopher who wrote in *Walden*, "I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life," the Thoreau Piano Trio cuts through hundreds of years of tradition to find and express the essence of each masterwork, interpreting each on its own terms.

An ensemble of depth, brilliance and conviction, the Thoreau Piano Trio has acquired a robust reputation for its insightful interpretations and for revealing unexpected correlations between works from different styles and periods. A typical program might range from music by French Baroque composer Jean Philippe Rameau, arranged for piano trio by Camille Saint-Saëns, through a work by Pulitzer Prize-winning contemporary composer Jennifer Higdon.

The Thoreau Piano Trio is the resident ensemble of the newly-renovated, acoustically superb Chelmsford Center for the Arts in Massachusetts.



Violinist Susan Jensen's wide-ranging career includes extensive experience in solo, chamber and orchestral music, crossing boundaries to embrace experimental and microtonal music, historically-informed styles from baroque to modern, and forays into pop, rock, and film. She has performed and recorded with opera legends Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti, and popular music icons Aerosmith, Ringo Starr, Dave Brubeck, Brian Wilson, Bill Medley, Randy Newman, Reba McEntire, Harry Connick, Jr. and Garth Brooks.

Susan has commissioned, premiered and recorded substantial and intriguing works, including the Grammy-nominated *Concerto for Violin with Gamelan* by Bill Alves, *Wound* for singing violinist by Conrad Kehn, and the 9th Quartet by Samuel Adler.

A passionate chamber musician, Susan has been a member of such preeminent ensembles as the award-winning Southwest Chamber Music Society, Xtet, and the internationally acclaimed DaVinci and Esterhazy String Quartets. She has traveled the globe far and wide, performing in China, Brazil and Italy. ■

Cellist Darry Dolezal has performed thousands of concerts in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the Copacabana Palace. In a wide-ranging career he has played works for solo cello (many written for him), concertos, a superabundance of chamber music, orchestral works, operas, and others uncategorizable. He has premiered over 200 works.

Darry was Gabor Rejto's stand partner in a cello choir conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich, collaborated with choreographers and dancers at Jacob's Pillow, and staged an outburst during Donald Martino's *From the Other Side* at the Warebrook Festival (as coached by the composer). For two decades he was the cellist of the Esterhazy Quartet.

The State Department sent him to Brazil to give concerts and master classes, in exchange for which he received an immersion into the musical, social and culinary life of the region.

(Ask him about sharing the stage with a samba band, playing Villa-Lobos in Rio, or how to make a killer caipirinha.) ■



Pianist Paul Jacobs has performed across the U.S. as a soloist and chamber musician in a variety of venues from Lincoln Center to The Lilypad in Cambridge, MA. His repertoire covers a wide range of music with an affinity for 20th century and new works. Solo performances have featured Ives's *Concord Sonata*, Ligeti *Etudes*, and Philip Glass's *Metamorphosis*.

Paul was a frequent performer on the Cambridge-based Composer Focus Concert Series from 2014-2016. In 2017 Paul was the soloist for a recording of Mary Bichner's piano concerto, *Early Spring*, commissioned by Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Paul has an interest in the study of the mind and how it relates to music. From his experiences as a performer, he became interested in how the mind deals with randomness, how it memorizes, and how different states of mind can be used effectively for learning or performing. ■

## SAMPLE PROGRAMS

The first two explore connections between the trio repertoire and Thoreau's writing.

- "Walking," an homage to nature's influence.
- "Night and Moonlight," an invitation to transform one's perspective and discover hidden beauty.
- "Untamed Trios," a celebration of Beethoven's revolutionary music and a play on the Thoreau Piano Trio's motto.
- "Significant Others" weaves works by women composers, from Clara Schumann to Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, into every program.
- "For the Birds", a program referencing birds, but also in service of animals. Mozart rescued and kept a starling. A Mozart trio will launch this program, which will benefit animal shelters, and can be an educational outreach concert for children.
- "Notes and Letters" combines readings from composers' letters along with performances of their concurrent compositions.