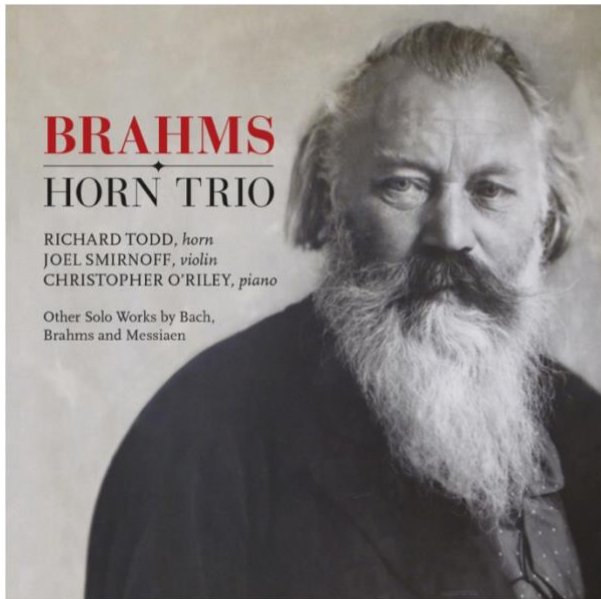




Celebrating the 40th anniversary in 2021



JOHANNES BRAHMS
—
**HORN TRIO
IN Eb MAJOR**

Richard Todd, *horn*
Joel Smirnoff, *violin*
Christopher O'Riley, *piano*

Gunther Schuller, *producer*

The Horn Trio's history is a checkered and complicated one. It begins with the surprising, almost unbelievable fact that the Trio's first publication and all later editions must be counted as among the worst in the entire history of classical music. When Gunther Schuller acquired his first score and parts of the work, he was startled to discover that a great amount of markings and tempo changes were misplaced or lined up wrong. In his notes for the CD publication, Schuller points out the many inconsistencies and century-long presumptions previous editions of the score and parts have caused.

With this version of the Horn Trio, Schuller hoped to address those long held "discrepancies and ambiguities" and to capture as close a definitive version of the Trio as possible from the viewpoint of the composer, based on long-standing Brahmsian traditions and performance practises.

Richard Todd, Joel Smirnoff and Christopher O'Riley have worked with Schuller in many different musical capacities over the years. Here they were brought together to take up the challenge of this singular mission: to rise above previous notions of this seminal work and to re-discover its soul. Included in the CD booklet is a comprehensive 13 page essay by Schuller that examines "The Fascinating Problem of Performing and Interpreting Brahms Horn Trio in Eb Major".

"If you would respect what the composer notates, you would at least discover that this is a wonderful and viable alternative to the kind of indulgent interpretation this music is usually subjected to. Look what happens when you really respect every dynamic and every tempo and every phrase and every articulation and you don't retouch it. Look what a miracle this music is!" *Gunther Schuller*

"Schuller views the conductor as someone whose responsibility it is to "realize" music, to bring the composer's ideas into acoustical reality, rather than "interpret" it as though the score were a painting that needed retouching or novel that needed rewording." *Travis Rivers, The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA*

Johannes Brahms: Horn Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 40 (1865)

Andante – Poco piu animato
Scherzo – Allegro
Adagio mesto
Allegro con brio

Also included on the CD release are solo performances from each member of the trio:

Johann Sebastian Bach: Sarabande from Partita for Violin Solo No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004 (1717-20)

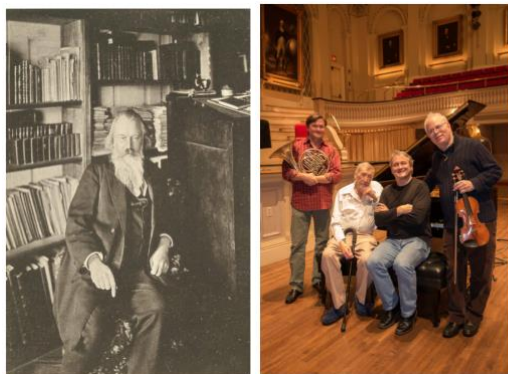
Johannes Brahms: Three Intermezzi for Piano, Opus 117 (1892)

Andante moderato
Andante non troppo e con molto espressione
Andante con moto

Olivier Messiaen: Appel interstellaire for Horn (1971-74)

From the sixth movement of Des canyons aux étoiles

The *Brahms Horn Trio* was recorded December 2014, *Three Intermezzi* on March 2015 and *Appel interstellaire* May 2015 at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA. *Sarabande* was recorded May 2015 at Mixon Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland, OH.



Brahms Horn Trio is now available on CD only.

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From Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl, **Richard Todd** has earned international acclaim as one of the finest horn soloists of our time, both in classical music and jazz. He served as principal horn of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra for 35 years and participated in over 2,000 motion picture soundtracks while in Hollywood. Todd is currently Associate Professor of French horn at the University of Miami Frost School of Music.

For almost four decades, pianist **Christopher O'Riley** has been defying categories... whether offering online lectures on the Well-Tempered Clavier or tackling the alternative music of Radiohead or Nick Drake, O'Riley constantly reminds us that there's more to gain than just the oft-used standard concert keyboard repertoire. Formerly radio host of NPR's "From The Top," O'Riley has fashioned a wide-ranging career in recordings of all stripes, informative video casts, and cross-media collaborations in dance and puppeteering.

The multi-talented **Joel Smirnoff**, primarily as violinist and conductor, has also been President of the Cleveland Institute of Music (2008-2016). As a longtime former member of the Juilliard String Quartet and six years with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Smirnoff is currently on the faculty of the violin department at Juilliard. He has also appeared as conductor with many orchestras, both in the USA and in Europe, and received the 2011 Lifetime Grammy Award for his many recordings with the Juilliard String Qt.

GM Recordings was founded in 1981 by composer/conductor/author **Gunther Schuller** (1923-2015) as an outlet for innovative composers and performers. Since then, this small independent musician-run label has produced over 120 jazz, classical, and mixed-genre releases including many debuts, historical performances, and world premieres. GM Recordings proudly celebrates both the 97th birthday of its founder and 40+ years of releasing quality music that deserves to be heard whether vinyl, cd or digital.