



# TRIO MELZI

Trio Melzi celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2010. The founder members, Richard Howarth, Jonathan Price and Sarah Beth Briggs met when Sarah first collaborated with the Manchester Camerata in 1991 and established a close rapport with the orchestra, performing on a regular basis in their main series in Manchester and the North West. She was also the featured soloist in the Camerata's twentieth birthday concert in London, performing two Mozart piano concertos in a gala evening at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and winning much praise from the national press.

As a result of this success, Trio Melzi was established to satisfy the demand for high quality piano chamber music and to complement its members' many musical activities. They gave their debut performance at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, in June 2000. They have appeared on BBC2 and BBC Radio 3 and their highly successful concerts at music clubs and festivals throughout the UK have been enthusiastically acclaimed by press and concert promoters alike.

In 2010 Trio Melzi were very sorry that Jonathan had to leave them (having developed musicians' focal dystonia). However, they were exceptionally lucky to be able to welcome one of the outstanding cellists of her generation – Hannah Roberts - to take his place. A former Young Musician of the Year finalist like Sarah, her longstanding connection with the Camerata and her chamber collaborations with Richard made her an ideal and natural successor.



sarah beth briggs



richard howarth



hannah roberts

*... a standard of musicianship rarely equalled...*

*...played with the virtuosity, panache and joie de vivre which had permeated the whole performance*

*"Beethoven's Archduke Trio opened with an handsome restraint that gave its colours a burnished glow"*

### **Some of our promoters' favourite programmes**

#### **PROGRAMME A**

- Haydn Trio in F sharp minor, Hob. XV/26
- Debussy Premier Trio
- Interval*
- Schubert Piano Trio in B Flat Major, D898

#### **PROGRAMME B**

- Haydn Trio in C, Hob XV/27
- Saint-Saens Trio in F, op. 18
- Interval*
- Beethoven Trio in B flat, Op. 97, "Archduke"

#### **PROGRAMME C**

- Mozart Trio in E, K542
- Shostakovich Trio no. 2 in E minor, op. 67
- Interval*
- Mendelssohn Trio no. 1 in D minor, op. 49

**For further details, see [www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk](http://www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk) or call Sarah on 01904 787011**

Richard Howarth violin



Richard Howarth began his career working with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, then as Assistant Leader of the BBC Concert Orchestra and as Leader of the Ulster Orchestra. He has also been a regular guest leader with many major British orchestras and, as soloist, has appeared with the Ulster Orchestra, RTE Symphony Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Richard was appointed Leader of Manchester Camerata in 1989. He directed numerous performances and appeared as soloist. He has recently relinquished this position to concentrate on conducting and chamber music. His

interest in chamber music led in 1990 to the formation of Camerata Ensemble and he now directs Manchester Chamber Ensemble.

Richard is increasingly in demand as a conductor. He has conducted Manchester Camerata, the Manchester, London & Scottish Concert Orchestras and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. As an educator, he conducts several amateur orchestras including Sale Chamber Orchestra and Sheffield Chamber Orchestra as well as being a regular guest conductor with Chester Philharmonic, Blackburn Symphony Orchestra and the Westmorland Orchestra.

Hannah Roberts is one of the finest 'cellists of her generation. She worked closely with the late William Pleeth at the Yehudi Menuhin School and with Ralph Kirshbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Hannah was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and won the Silver medal in the Shell/LSO Competition (performing the Elgar Concerto with the LSO at the Barbican.) Other prestigious awards have included the Jacqueline du Pre Memorial Award and the Pierre Fournier Award, as a result of which she gave a highly successful debut recital at the Wigmore Hall.

Since making her concerto debut at the Royal Festival Hall in London, Hannah has given numerous concerto

performances with leading orchestras, including the London Mozart Players, LSO, BBC Concert Orchestra and the Halle. She has also made frequent broadcasts for BBC radio. Festival appearances have included Chichester, Malvern, Beverley, and the recent 'Beethovenfest' in Manchester. In addition to her acclaimed duo partnership with husband Simon Parkin, Hannah has enjoyed working with the late Lord Menuhin, pianist Martin Roscoe and violinist Tasmin Little, with whom she has recorded for ASV.

She is much in demand as a teacher and is frequently invited to give masterclasses, in addition to her post at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Hannah plays on a fine Grancino instrument of 1695.

Hannah Roberts cello



Sarah Beth Briggs piano



Sarah Beth Briggs rose to international attention when she became the joint winner of the International Mozart Competition in Salzburg, following her success in the BBC Young Musician of the Year at 11, in which she was the then youngest ever finalist. She has performed with many of Britain's major orchestras and at most of its most prestigious venues, as well as giving numerous concerts in Europe and the U.S.A. and making international radio and television recordings. A popular soloist at music clubs and festivals, her musical interpretations have been highly acclaimed by promoters and critics alike. Her warmly reviewed recordings for Semaphore (*'...she holds her own with many of the illustrious names on disc'* *Gramophone*, *'...performances of real stature, the pianism is first rate...'* *International Record Review*) showcase her talents across a wide range of repertoire,

including Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Brahms, Bartok, Britten and Rawsthorne.

Sarah enjoys balancing a successful solo career with numerous chamber music engagements and has worked with many acclaimed soloists. In addition to this trio, she has a longstanding duo partnership with clarinettist Janet Hilton and she and Janet also join forces in two highly successful trios. *Clarion<sup>3</sup>* features the unusual combination of clarinet, bassoon and piano (with Laurence Perkins) whilst the more orthodox but splendidly balanced *Anton Stadler Trio* sees them combining with Robin Ireland (perhaps best known as violist of the Lindsay Quartet). Her most recent venture is a piano duet partnership with James Lisney. As a chamber musician, Sarah has featured on BBC2 and Radio 3.