



The Anton Stadler Trio is named in honour of the celebrated Austrian clarinettist, Anton Stadler (1753-1812), to whom Mozart dedicated all his major clarinet works, including the Kegelstatt Trio – possibly the finest work ever written for this instrumental combination.

The trio reunites Janet Hilton, one of Britain's foremost clarinettists, with renowned viola player Robin Ireland, formerly of the world-famous Lindsay String Quartet. The critical acclaim awarded to the Hilton-Lindsay performances and recordings makes this collaboration a natural and exciting development. Virtuoso pianist, Sarah Beth Briggs, completes the trio. A much sought after solo performer in her own right, Sarah is also one of Janet's long-standing duo partners. The Anton Stadler Trio thus unites two outstanding musical partnerships, showcasing the talents of three exceptional performers in some superb repertoire, ranging from Mozart to the twentieth century.

Sample Programme

- Mozart** 'Kegelstatt' Trio in E flat, K498
- Schubert** Sonata in A minor, D821 'Arpeggione' (viola and piano)
- Interval**
- Schumann** Märchenerzählungen (Fairy Tales) op. 132 (trio)
- Bernstein** Clarinet Sonata
- Bruch** Pieces 1-4 from 'Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano'

Trio Repertoire includes: Mozart, Bruch, Schumann, Francaix, Kurtag, Uhl and Reinecke. (All programmes will also include duos for clarinet and piano and viola and piano).

"...the interplay of instruments and the sense of ensemble were exemplary."

"The stunning Kegelstatt trio by Mozart, allegedly written in a bowling alley left all amazed... they were quite superb."

A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT EVENING

The Johannes Convention

Brahms' two great sonatas (op. 120) were composed during an 'Indian summer' of creativity, for another celebrated clarinettist: Richard Mühlfeld. The arrangements Brahms himself made of the works for viola are also highly compelling and are performed and recorded as regularly as the original versions. Members of the Anton Stadler Trio are renowned soloists in their own right, providing a rare opportunity to compare and contrast these beautiful and subtle scores. Juxtaposed with a couple of Brahms' late works for solo piano, this ensemble recital also includes Mozart's Kegelstatt Trio and either Schumann's Fairy Tales or three of Bruch's Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, op. 83. An evening not to be missed for Brahms lovers!



Janet Hilton clarinet



Janet is recognised as one of the leading clarinetists in the UK. She has performed with many of Britain's finest orchestras, and has also become renowned for her superb chamber music interpretations with such well known ensembles as the Lindsay, Endellion and Chillingirian String Quartets. Her many overseas engagements have included concerts in Holland, Canada and the USA (where she has regularly worked with the Michigan based chamber group, Fontana), a recital tour of the major European Opera houses with Margaret Price, concerts in Italy (at the Incontri in Tierra di Siena festival and with the Alessandro Scarlatti Orchestra in Naples) and work for the Gstaad Festival in Switzerland. In Britain, she has appeared at many festivals, including Aldeburgh, Bath, Cheltenham, City of London, Edinburgh, Harrogate, and the BBC Proms.

Her extensive list of recordings for the Chandos label includes the chamber music of Brahms and Weber, trios by Mozart, Bruch and Schumann, and concertos by Weber, Stanford, Nielsen and Copland. She has recorded Malcolm Arnold's first Clarinet Concerto for EMI, and the Mozart Clarinet Quintet for ASV. In 2001, Clarinet Classics released an exciting disc of Janet's performances of four concertos written for her by Alun Hoddinott, John McCabe, Edward Harper and Dame Elizabeth Maconchy.

Alongside her solo career, Janet has been Principal Clarinet of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Welsh National Opera and Kent Opera Orchestras and the Manchester Camerata. She is a Professor of Clarinet at the Royal College of Music, where she was Head of Woodwind from 1998-2010.

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Robin was a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral Choir School and went on to read music at Cambridge University. After further study in America, he had a short spell as leader of the Las Palmas Symphony Orchestra. He subsequently became a founder member of the piano quartet, Domus, and since that point, chamber music has formed a major part of his career, and he has become known as one of the UK's finest chamber musicians.

Robin played viola with the renowned Lindsay String Quartet for twenty years, until the group disbanded in July 2005. The Lindsay's were known throughout the world for their intense and moving performances, and they made over fifty CDs for ASV, covering virtually all the

major string quartet repertoire. He was a member of the Primrose Piano Quartet from 2006 - 2014.

In addition to his highly successful chamber music ventures, Robin is an exceptional soloist and has appeared with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Mozart Players. Recently he performed the Walton and Bartok viola concertos and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante. He has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and has given many recitals covering the standard viola and piano repertoire. He also gives performances for unaccompanied viola (often featuring viola transcriptions of Bach's unaccompanied violin or cello works) and his recording on the Quartz label features this repertoire. Robin is also

Robin Ireland viola



a highly respected composer and teacher and is Head of Chamber Music at the Birmingham Conservatoire. He plays on an Amati viola made in Cremona in 1630.

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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 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 her longstanding duo with clarinetist Janet Hilton and this trio, she and Janet also join forces in *Clarion*³, featuring the unusual combination of clarinet, bassoon and piano (with Laurence Perkins). She has also been the pianist in *Trio Melzi* (which now sees her joined by former Manchester Camerata leader Richard Howarth and cellist Hannah Roberts) since its formation in 2000. Her most recent venture is a piano duet partnership with James Lisney. As a chamber musician, Sarah has featured on BBC2 and Radio 3.

Sarah taught keyboard for many years at the University of York. She gives regular masterclasses and chamber music tuition in the UK and has also taught in Switzerland and the USA.