



# Briggs Piano Trio

Three musicians with illustrious histories as chamber music players come together in The Briggs Piano Trio. United by a commitment to continuing to raise the profile of the Austrian-British composer Hans Gál, they were first brought together by AVIE Records to record a disc contrasting Gál's poetic E major Trio with Shostakovich's dark E minor Trio.

Sarah, David and Kenneth have previously collaborated in various contexts going back as far as the early 1990s. While Sarah and David were originally brought together through Mozart, in recent years, the Hans Gál connection was again what partnered Sarah with Kenneth, when he conducted the world premiere of Hans Gál's Piano Concerto with Sarah as soloist for an AVIE disc which was awarded a Gramophone Critic's Choice.

As well as exploring hidden gems, the players look forward to returning to all the great chamber works for Piano Trio that they have enjoyed performing as part of their past chamber ensembles. The Briggs Piano Trio share a special affinity for the piano trios of the leading composers of the great Austro-German tradition from Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert through Brahms and Zemlinsky to Hans Gál, perhaps the last great figure in that line.

Away from the concert platform, the three share a love of dogs, wine and coffee.



## Gramophone Editor's Choice October 2018

*"The playing throughout is simply exquisite. Recommended with all possible enthusiasm."*

## MusicWeb International Recording of the Month November 2018

*"Overall, this is outstanding playing by the Briggs Trio and this recording is recommended without reservation."*

*"The Briggs Trio responds to the style with enormous affection, following the mood changes from passionate to witty with eagle ears, and it sounds as if they have been living with the music for a long time."*

BBC Music Magazine

*"These thoughtful, uncommonly articulate performers more than hold their own in a fiercely crowded field."*

Classical Ear



REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

## Further information

Sarah Beth Briggs 07717 496506 ♦ [enquiries@sarahbethbriggs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sarahbethbriggs.co.uk)

David Juritz 07973 343314 ♦ [david@juritz.com](mailto:david@juritz.com)

Kenneth Woods 07973 906206 ♦ [ken@kennethwoods.net](mailto:ken@kennethwoods.net)

[www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk](http://www.sarahbethbriggs.co.uk)



Sarah is sponsored  
by Semaphore  
Multimedia Limited

## 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 a number of the most prestigious UK 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, Bartók, Rawsthorne, Britten



Photo: Clive Barda ArenaPAL

and Debussy. Her latest disc on the AVIE label (a Gramophone Critics' Choice in 2016) features the world premiere of Hans Gál's Piano Concerto coupled with Mozart Concerto K482 with the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Kenneth Woods.

Sarah enjoys balancing a successful solo career with numerous chamber music engagements and has worked with many acclaimed soloists. She was a founder member of Trio Melzi (2000 – 2016) and in addition to her longstanding duo partnership with clarinettist Janet Hilton, they are joined by ex Lindsay violist, Robin Ireland in the Anton Stadler Trio and by bassoonist, Laurence Perkins in Clarion3. She also has a successful piano duet partnership with James Lisney. April 2018 saw the release of her first chamber music CD - Gál's Piano Quartet and Violin and Piano Sonatinas for Toccata Classics.

## DAVID JURITZ VIOLIN

David Juritz was born in Cape Town, South Africa and, after winning a scholarship, came to London to study at the Royal College of Music with Hugh Bean and Jaroslav Vanecek. During his time at the RCM he won all the major prizes for violin including the College's highest award, the Tagore Gold Medal.

On leaving the RCM he joined the English Chamber Orchestra before being appointed leader of the London Mozart Players, a position he held from 1991 to 2010. He made many solo appearances with the LMP, including his debut at the 2006 BBC Promenade Concerts.

He has appeared as soloist and/or director with many orchestras around the world. His recording of the Vivaldi Four Seasons with the LMP was hailed by critics as one of the finest interpretations of the work. David's recording of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo and of music by the Polish composer, Gracina Bacewicz, have also been warmly received.

He has played with many chamber groups including the Razumovsky Ensemble and the LMP Chamber Ensemble. He made acclaimed recordings of Schubert (live at the Wigmore Hall) and Symanowski Quartets with the Maggini Quartet and has recorded, broadcast, and performed internationally with many other ensembles.

In 2005 he took on the role of artistic director of the Burton Bradstock Festival in Dorset presenting a series of folk, jazz and classical concerts in August each year.

David plays on a violin made by J.B. Guadagnini in Piacenza in 1748.



Photo: Christine Bradshaw

## KENNETH WOODS CELLO



Photo: Ben Falovega

Cellist Kenneth Woods is recognised as a musician of rare versatility, equally at home as conductor, recitalist, chamber musician and soloist.

A founding member of the NEA Rural Residency Grant winning Taliesin Trio, he has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, the US, Canada and New Zealand.

He was the cellist of the Masala String Quartet from 1993-1999 and of the string trio Ensemble Epomeo from 2008 - 2017. The Ensemble's debut CD, featuring world-premiere recordings of the string trios of Hans Gál paired with those of Hans Krása, was released in 2012 on Avie Records to international acclaim, selected as a Gramophone Critic's Choice, Disc of the Month on MusicWeb and hailed by The Strad as a "thought provoking disc."

Festival appearances include the Festival at Sandpoint, Great Lakes Chamber Festival, Lucerne Festival in Switzerland, Schloss Weinberg Festival in Austria, Chautauqua Institute, Domaine Forget Festival in Canada, Wallowa Lake Chamber Music Festival and the International Festival Institute at Round To. In recent years, he has been heard as cellist at the Newburyport and Two Rivers festivals, and as artist in residence at the Scotia Festival of Music in Canada.

Kenneth Woods' chamber music colleagues include members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian Chamber Players, the Pro Arte, Audubon, La Salle and Tokyo Quartets, the Cincinnati, Chicago, and Toronto Symphonies, and the Minnesota, Gewandhaus and Concertgebouw Orchestras. Kenneth Woods plays a cello of Italian origin made by Antonio Mariani in the mid-1600s.