
Leonore Piano Trio

Selected Reviews

CD Reviews: Taneyev & Rimsky-Korsakov: Piano Trios, Hyperion Records CD 68159 Released February 2017

'The Leonore Piano Trio – Benjamin Nabarro (violin); Gemma Rosefield (cello) and Tim Horton (piano) are fine interpreters; Nabarro and Rosefield's duet in the penultimate movement [of the Taneyev] is noteworthy. [...] [For the Rimsky-Korsakov,] the Leonore Piano Trio evoke the rainbow colours and myriad shapes, moving quickly from dark and expansive (first movement) to slithers of iridescence (second movement). Horton brings an uneasy sense of trepidation to the third movement, foreshadowing the bittersweet piano solo in the finale. The balance of instruments is excellent throughout.'

Claire Jackson, *BBC Music Magazine* ****

'Taneyev, more astute than Tchaikovsky was in finding a balance between the piano and the two string instruments, is also far more resourceful in tonal colouring, in contrapuntal knitting and pitting of parts and in the general sense of creative momentum and coherence. These are qualities that the Leonore harness to terrific effect [...]

Geoffrey Norris, *Gramophone*

'With the British Leonore Piano Trio, [the music] is all about naturalness and spontaneity, partly driven by the driving force of the expressive pianist Tim Horton. [...] The kaleidoscopic mood swings are particularly hard-hitting [...] Intense, and concentrated, [...] the technical finish is flawless.'

Aart van der Wal, *Opus Klassiek*

CD Reviews: David Matthews Complete Piano Trios, Toccata Classics 0369 Released January 2017

Editor's Choice

'The Leonore Piano Trio have clearly lived with this music; their playing is alert and stylish, unafraid to let me melodies sore. 'Their performances seem to me definitive', says Matthews.'

Richard Bratby, *Gramophone*

'Lyrical lines are played with a poignancy and delicacy by an ensemble who thoroughly believe in the music.'

Martin Cullingford, *Gramophone*

'David Matthews is doubly fortunate. [...] on this disc, he has the wonderful, technically impeccable and sensitive Leonore Piano Trio as his performers.'

Gary Higginson, *MusicWeb International*

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**CD Reviews: Édouard Lalo Piano Trios, Hyperion Records CDA68113
Released 31 December 2015**

Disc of the Week

'[a] powerful performance by the Leonore Piano Trio. Their huge dynamic range is effortlessly accommodated by the recording.'

Andrew McGregor, BBC Radio 3 Record Review

'The suavity of playing is [a] key factor in lending all three trios the polish and panache that they merit.'

Geoffrey Norris, Gramophone

'There's high virtuosity all round—superb light, dazzling backgrounds from Tim Horton, searing intensity of tone from violinist Benjamin Nabarro and cellist Gemma Rosefield [...] it's terrific stuff.'

Jessica Duchon, BBC Music Magazine

★★★★ PERFORMANCE

★★★★ RECORDING

'A remarkable disc of his piano trios by the Leonore, who make a good case of them [...] a real discovery.'

The Sunday Times

'Benjamin Nabarro, Gemma Rosefield and Tim Horton make a very convincing case for this trio of trios'

MusicWeb International

'The Leonore Piano Trio, with none other than Tim Horton on piano, delivers clean, light performances that respect the music's craft without trying to make of it more than is there.'

AllMusic, USA

'The Leonore Piano Trio has much to offer in regard to its meticulous observing of Lalo's wide-ranging dynamics ... on balance, this is the finest release with all three Lalo trios in the present and past catalogs'

ClassicsToday.com

Beethoven - Complete Piano Trios I and David Matthews's Piano Trio No.1 Kings Place, March 2015

"This was a fine performance, not least when the playing of the three musicians was so admirably dovetailed into the ensemble as a whole." **-Richard Whitehouse, Classical Source**

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Presteigne Festival 23 August 2014

"The Leonore Trio's concert gave us the energetic and virtuosic drama of Blackwood-born Huw Watkins' Piano Trio (with the composer at the piano). But it was Mendelssohn's First Piano Trio, which ended the programme that burnt itself into the memory. Fleet, nimble, light as a soufflé yet also exploding into searing drama and passion, it was a performance in a thousand, bringing a roar of approval from the audience at the close" -**Wales Online** *****

CD Reviews: Arensky's Piano Trios Hyperion CDA68015 Released 3 March 2014

"The Leonore Trio do much to persuade us to listen anew to Arensky – too often dismissed as a lightweight Tchaikovsky – playing with sumptuous breadth and beguiling warmth in the first trio, and with appropriate seriousness of intent in the altogether graver second. Revelatory playing from Benjamin Nabarro, violin, Gemma Rosefield, cello, and Tim Horton, piano." -**The Observer** ****

"The Leonores play with truly glorious affection and security, and it is hard to imagine playing of a greater empathy. Balance (there is no artificial highlighting) and sound are ideal. - **Gramophone 'Choice'**

"The Leonore Piano Trio offer an all-Arensky adventure [...] Masterly performance, handsomely recorded, with a range of tone-colours from pianist Tim Horton and a specially lovely lead back into the main melody of the F minor's Romance from violinist Benjamin Nabarro." - **BBC Music Magazine*******

"These works make an admirable CD and one must applaud the performances of the Leonore ensemble in both, for it manages to capture their subtly varied essence and style ideally. The musicians here manage to hold the underlying pulse of the first movement of the D minor together without making it appear stiff or unnatural, at the same time as applying those myriad touches of refinement and expression without appearing contrived. In other words, in this difficult long movement (14 minutes) the attention is fully held, and in the succeeding three movements their playing is equally admirable – especially in the elegiac Adagio, where in the closing passage Gemma Rosefield's cello tone is first-rate and in the finale displaying an admirable combination of varied emotional strengths and architectural expression. [...] The Leonore Trio manages to extract an underlying vein of passionate commitment that sheds fresh light on the familiar, endlessly melodic line. The result is indeed fine." - **International Record Review 'Outstanding'**

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Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, New Zealand 14 November 2012

"The Royal Over-Seas League enables the best chamber music groups from universities to compete for a very substantial scholarship. This was the sixth consecutive year that the competition has been held at the Academy. It is tradition that some from the adjudicating panel perform at the opening concert; this year the judges performing were the Leonore Trio of Timothy Horton, Benjamin Nabarro and Gemma Rosefield. Haydn's Piano Trio No 27 was played with all the characteristics of classical style; elegance, clarity, crispness and a sense of elastic tempi as Horton sparkled his way through the virtuoso piano part, allowing the accompaniment to meld into the background. In Ravel's Piano Trio the ethereal hues and the reflective nuances captured the poignant moments. The Pantoum was exciting, while the Passacaille portrayed a bleaker terrain. The Finale was beautifully opulent with its warm lustres and full-bodied optimism. Holkham Beach by Simon Rowland-Jones was characterful as it traversed many moods which flowed almost seamlessly from one to the other; from the bleak to the scampering, from insecurity to fortitude and with a Presto full of energy and drama. Dvořák's Piano Trio Op.65 was powerful with an expansive lush sound where Nabarro and Rosefield created a lovely blend and balance with the tuneful grazioso. The warmth and delicate phrasing of the Poco Adagio with its long legato lines were tinged with melancholy. The varieties of colours, energy and drive in the Allegro con brio were finely paced so that it built layers to its final climax. A great programme, a marvelous performance, what music making is all about. Make time to hear the finalists and scholarship winners in their concert on Friday 16th. "

- Andrew Buchanan-Smart, *Waikato Times*