



TRIO SŌRA

BEETHOVEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR ENCORE

COVID van B

Raphaël Merlin

World Premiere 17 October 2020

Trio Sōra, the charismatic Paris-based piano trio that won a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship earlier this year, has used a portion of its BBT funds to commission an *encore* from composer and Quatuor Ebène cellist, **Raphaël Merlin**.

The creative seed was sown for this year's Beethoven 250 celebration, in order to have a Ludwig van B-inspired *encore* to play at the end of the Trio's recitals throughout the year. Coronavirus has rather skewed original touring plans but Merlin, with some of the best-known Beethovenian motifs in mind - including *Symphony No 5*, *Ghost* and *Archduke* trios and *Ode to Joy*, with a perhaps a little Debussy, Rossini and Gershwin too - has worked his magic and applied his imagination and humour to produce **Covid van B**. The premiere takes place on 17 October in Paris at La Maison de la Radio, the occasion being a special farewell concert for cellist, conductor and radio personality Frédéric Lodéon who is retiring from Radio France after a long and successful career as one of France Musique's most popular presenters.

The Trio is committed to "*celebrating the composer's humanity and tremendous modernity*" and, to this end, it has recorded all six Beethoven piano trios for its debut album which will be released on 6 November on the **Naïve Classique** label.

Further press information:

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Notes to editors:

TRIO SÖRA

Pauline Chenais *piano*

Clémence de Forceville *violin*

Angèle Legasa *cello*



- **Performs** internationally at venues including London's Wigmore Hall and Southbank Centre, Bonn's Beethoven-Haus, Verbier Festival, Philharmonie de Paris and Auditorium du Louvre and such festivals as Folle Journée de Nantes and Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.
- **Awards** include HSBC Laureate of the Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence (2017), Parkhouse Award (2017), Special Prize of the Verbier Festival Academy (2018) and Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship (2020).
- **Collaborations** include those with great instrumentalists such as Mathieu Herzog, András Schiff, Menahem Pressler, Antonio Meneses, Andreas Keller, Tabea Zimmermann, Quatuor Ebène and Artemis Quartet.
- **Debut recording** of the complete Beethoven Piano Trios is released on Naïve Records in November 2020.
- **Commissions**: The ensemble is also committed to promoting the work of female composers and contemporary figures such as Dieter Ammann, Kelly-Marie Murphy, Camille Pépin, Wolfgang Rhim and Eric Tanguy.
- **Residencies** include the Fondation Singer-Polignac, Le Dimore Del Quartetto, ProQuartet-CEMC.
- **Support** for Trio Söra is provided by Günther Caspar Stiftung, Spedidam, the Swiss Life Foundation and Adami.
- **Instruments**: Clémence de Forceville plays a Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin (1777) and Angèle Legasa a Giulio Cesare Gigli cello (1767), both generously loaned by the Fondation Boubo-Music.

Raphaël Merlin

<https://www.rsbartists.com/en/artists/raphael-merlin/>

Photograph by Astrid di Crollanza