



MITHRAS TRIO

The Fountain of Youth

Piano Trios by Shostakovich, Lisney and Korngold

Linn Records CKD781 (Outhere Music)

Release date: 22 May 2026 (digital release 15 May)

Why are so many piano trios written by young composers? In the booklet notes for the Mithras Trio's second recording with Linn (supported by its 2024 BBT Award), pianist Dominic Degavino muses on the possible reasons why, and concludes that this particular combination of instruments can provide both scope for compositional ambition and a showcase for virtuosic performance. Many great composers in the genre were also formidable pianists themselves, including the likes of Brahms, Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninov.

This album, *The Fountain of Youth*, features early pieces written by a 12-year-old Erich Korngold and 16-year-old Dmitri Shostakovich, alongside British composer Joy Lisney.

The disc opens with **Shostakovich's** first piano trio, *Poème*, a single movement piece with a lyrical heart and hints of the composer's future mature style in moments of ferocity and foreboding, carefully encased in a late-Romantic shell appropriate for the young love interest to whom he dedicated it in 1923. Although Shostakovich himself performed it privately with friends, it was not published until the 1980s after his death.

Already a prodigiously accomplished composer at age seven, **Korngold** wrote his Piano Trio Op. 1 when he was 12 and it premiered in 1910 with none other than Bruno Walter at the piano. Full of inventiveness, energy and certainty of musical gesture, it is a masterwork written in a late-Romantic style influenced by Mahler, Strauss and Puccini. Bursting with youthful joy and suggestive of the Viennese opulence of the era, this piece also introduces the generous open-heartedness that would come to characterise so much of Korngold's work.

Cellist, conductor and composer **Joy Lisney's** first piano trio, *Petrichor*, was completed in 2022 and premiered the following year by its commissioner, the Mithras Trio, which now delivers the premiere recording. Its inclusion on this album is a mark of the Trio's commitment to including contemporary works in its programming. Lisney's inspiration comes from the primal connection we have to water and its life-giving qualities. Alternately lilting, gentle and enquiring, the piece is also punctuated with rousing and forceful dynamic

shifts leading to a heightened and dramatic conclusion. The coalescence of *Petrichor's* * literal meaning and watery themes, and the mythical connotations of *Mithras** also prompted the choice of the album's title, ***The Fountain of Youth*** which, according to legend, granted longevity and vitality to those that bathed in its waters.

**Petrichor* is the name given to the earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil: from ancient Greek *petra* (rock) and *ichor* (the ethereal fluid that is the blood of the gods in Greek mythology). The Persian god of Mithras was often depicted emerging from rock and symbolised strength, rebirth and cosmic order.

Press information: Debra Boraston at Borletti-Buitoni Trust

T. +44 (0)7989 434388 E. debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk <https://www.bbtrust.com>

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Piano Trio No.1 in C minor 'Poème' Op.8

Joy Lisney (1993 -)

Petrichor (world premiere recording)

Lento moderato: Introduzione • Allegretto: Scherzo • Grazioso: Con moto

Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957)

Piano Trio in D major Op.1

Allegro non troppo, con espressione • Scherzo: Allegro • Larghetto • Finale: Allegro molto e energico

Upcoming concerts featuring repertoire from *The Fountain of Youth*:

10 May Yewfield, Cumbria <https://www.yewfield.co.uk/concerts-events>

13 May 1901 Arts Club, London <https://www.1901artsclub.com/13-may-2026-mithras-trio.html>

15 May Brighton Festival <https://brightonfestival.org/whats-on/Xsk-mithras-trio/>

THE MITHRAS TRIO

www.mithrastrio.co.uk

Ionel Manciu *violin*

Leo Popplewell *cello*

Dominic Degavino *piano*



Formed in 2017 at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. From June 2026, The Mithras Trio welcomes two new members, violinist **Thomas Mathias** and cellist **Ben Tarlton**.

Awards include first prizes - all in 2019 - at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition, Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition and Cavatina Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition, as well as the Royal Philharmonic Society's Henderson Award. Prior to its BBT Award in 2024, the Trio was a BBC New Generation Artist for the 2021-23 seasons.

Venues where the Trio performs include London's Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Milton Court Concert Hall, as well as many other leading recital halls throughout the UK, Europe and north America.

Recordings include the Trio's debut album *Eros* (Linn Records 2023) featuring music by Bridge, Grime, Eröd and Ginastera, plus many BBC Radio 3 recordings and live concert broadcasts from Cheltenham, Hay, Ryedale and Belfast International Music festivals.

As passionate exponents of **contemporary music** the Trio has worked with Helen Grime and Julian Philips and given world premières of works by Peter Tornyai and Joy Lisney.