

MICHALA PETRI TRIO

Michala Petri, Recorder

Hanne Petri, Harpsichord

David Petri, Violoncello

Sunday, Feb. 16th, 1986

Queen Elizabeth Playhouse

6th Season 1985—1986



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Meet the Artists

MICHALA PETRI TRIO

The Michala Petri Trio features the dazzling virtuosity of the young Danish artist Michala Petri. Acclaimed as one of the finest recorder players in the world, her performances prompted Stereo Review to write, "Her technique will stand your hair on end." Her numerous awards include the Danish Critics' Prize and the Tagea Brandt Bursary, given annually to a Danish woman of outstanding achievement. Each season she gives hundreds of solo concerts.

Formed in 1969, when Michala was 13, the trio has performed widely throughout Europe and made numerous recordings. Her mother, harpsichordist Hanne Petri; and her brother, cellist David Petri, complete the trio. Hanne Petri, formerly an internationally known recitalist, studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and with Bruno Seidlhofer in Vienna. David Petri, winner of Denmark's Young Musician of the Year Award, has also won the Royal Danish Orchestra Cello Competition.

Their extensive repertoire includes works of such seventeenth and eighteenth century masters as Telemann, Handel, Vivaldi, Corelli, and Sammartini. Tonight's performance marks the Vancouver debut of the Petri Trio.

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Program

Sonata in A minor
for treble recorder and basso continuo

Georg Friedrich Handel
(1685-1759)

Larghetto
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

It has been recently established that Handel wrote six complete sonatas for treble recorder and basso continuo. This one is the second.

The treble recorder, in other countries called alto recorder, became the most used member of the recorder family during the 18th century, serving as a solo (not group) instrument. Its range goes from F above middle C up to two octaves and a few notes more. Bach, Telemann and many other composers of the period were attracted to its sound and versatility, leaving a rich literature for it.

Basso continuo, as mentioned above, refers to the compositional technique of the 18th century to notate only the soloist and the bass part, leaving a few figures from which the keyboard player has to invent the accompaniment.

Variations for solo descant recorder

Jacob Van Eyck
(1590-1657)

"Philis schoone harderinne"
"Engels nachtegaeltje"
"Wat zal men op den avond doen"

Jacob van Eyck was a virtuoso Dutch recorder player, who held the post of chief bell-ringer in Utrecht. For an extra twenty guilders per year, he was commissioned to entertain churchyard passers-by with the sound of his recorder. His repertoire consisted of variations on popular hymns, songs, and dances of the day. Most of these were written down and published in a single volume in 1654 under the title "Der Fluytenlushof" — with hymns, pavanés, allemenades, courantes, ballets, airs, and the latest songs, artfully and delightfully figured with many innovations.

Sonata in E minor for
violoncello and basso continuo

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)

Largo
Allegro
Largo
Allegro

Vivaldi wrote six sonatas for cello and basso continuo. This is number 5 and the most popular of them.

Trio sonata in B flat Major for treble
recorder, harpsichord and basso continuo

Georg Philipp Telemann
(1681–1767)

Dolce
Vivace
Siciliana
Vivace

The present Trio sonata gives the modern recorder player the rare opportunity of playing with harpsichord, a solo instrument in its own right.

This work of Telemann is a counterpart to the three flute sonatas with obligato clavier of J.S. Bach. Whereas the Bach sonatas do not expressly prescribe the thoroughbass instrument, the Telemann sonata is designated and written as a “trio” sonata, in which the third part is to be played by a thoroughbass instrument.

Intermission

Sonatina for descant recorder and
harpsichord, Op. 15 (Dedicated to Michala & Hanne Petri)

Asger Lund Christiansen
(b. 1927)

Allegro assai
Andante quasi Allegretto
Allegro vivace
Presto scherzando

Asger Lund Christiansen is Danish and mainly known as a cellist. As a composer, he has written many works for Michala Petri and the Petri Trio.

“Consonante” for solo descant recorder
(Dedicated to Michala Petri)

Ole Buck
(b. 1945)

For one of Denmark’s youngest composers, Ole Buck has a remarkable body of work behind him. He wrote his first works under the influence of Webern and Stravinsky. Serialism satisfied his sense of order and, after a great deal of study, he developed a serial system which suited the world of sound he wanted to achieve. He has written several works for Michala Petri.

Sonata in E Major for sopranino recorder
and basso continuo

Johann C. Schickhardt
(about 1682–1762)

Allegro
Allegro
Giga
Allegro
Siciliano
Allegro

Schickhardt was born about 1682, in or near Brunswick. The circumstances of his life — the constant moving from one minor court to the other, the continual dedication of compositions to one prince after another in order to gain employment — point to a journeyman composer and performer, unable to gain a position in an important court or city.

continued...

Nevertheless his compositions must have been well-known and popular; otherwise he would not have been unable to publish at least thirty sets, containing six to twelve compositions, per set.

Schickhardt himself seems to have played the recorder and oboe. He has written 24 sonatas for recorder in all keys, the one in E Major, the seventh in the set.

It can be safely assumed that they were written with two purposes in mind; firstly to show that one could play flutes and recorders in all keys, and second as study work for his pupils.

Next Concert

Sunday, March 2nd, 1986 at 8:00 p.m.

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