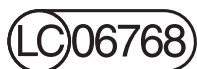


Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Piano Trio B flat major D 898
Notturmo D 897

Musicians:
Max Brod Trio

Order Number:
Audiomax 703 1608-2

UPC-Code:



“A Rising and Falling of Beautifully Human Feeling”

The Max Brod Trio presents Schubert’s Notturmo D 897 and his Piano Trio D 898

The Piano Trio in B flat major (D 898) by Franz Schubert numbers among the best known and most difficult works of what for him was a rare genre. The young German-Czech Max Brod Trio has recorded this chamber-musical heavyweight for Audiomax. It is complemented by an extraordinarily appealing performance of the Adagio in D major, the “Notturmo.”

Until his 30th birthday Schubert’s predilection was for the composition of string quartets. Mixed chamber instruments are infrequent in his music. He wrote his first piano trio in 1827, a year prior to his early death. Today it is not known whether D 898 was composed for a specific occasion or written with the relevant catalogues in mind. There is much to indicate, however, that it was composed in the immediate temporal vicinity of the “Notturmo,” for which we have an autograph and a date of composition.

Robert Schumann raved about the works of his fellow composer as if he were his personal publicity agent. For him the B flat major trio was absolutely “full of emotion, feminine, and lyrical.” Already the first movement was so “charming, entrusting, maidenly,” and for its part the adagio was “a blissful dream, a rising and falling of beautifully human feeling.” Classic fan, what more could you ask for?

The Max Brod Trio symbolizes the process of unification in Europe. Responding to an initiative of the European Union in support of intercultural concerts in 2005, Kerstin Straßburg (piano), Petr Mateják (violin), and Maximilian von Pfeil (cello), three musicians coming from different backgrounds and drawing on distinct artistic experiences, joined forces toward the goal of contributing to understanding between cultures in an ensemble named in honor of Max Brod, a Jewish author who was born in Prague and wrote in German. The ensemble’s concerts and CD recordings quickly met with remarkable international resonance and recognition. With assistance from their many friends and supporters the three musicians founded the Max Brod Salons as a platform for cultural encounters and interactions continuing in the tradition represented by Brod.