

Antonín Dvořák

(1841-1904)

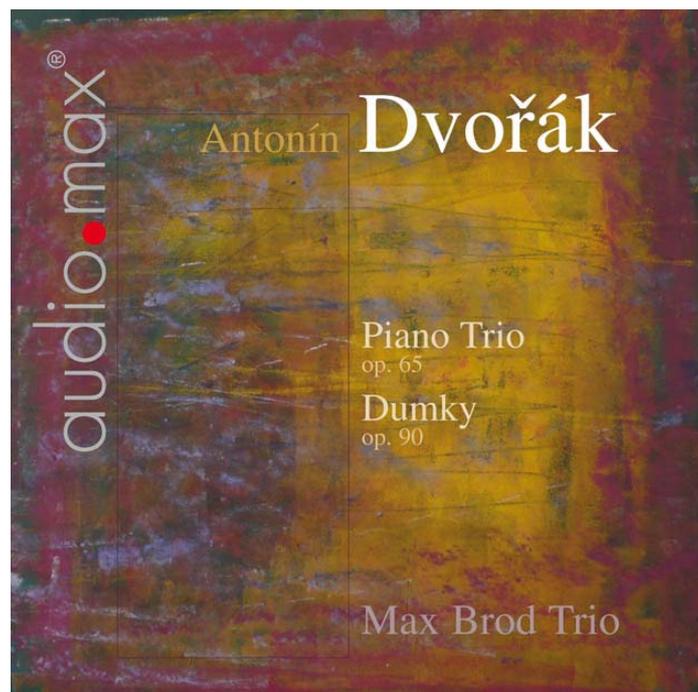
Piano Trio op. 65

Dumky op. 90

Max Brod Trio

Order No.: Audiomax 703 1682-2

UPC-Code:



After the great success of its CD with Franz Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 the Max Brod Trio now turns to another master of the art of chamber music. The three musicians from the Bohemian-German-Austrian borderlands present Antonín Dvořák's Piano Trios opp. 65 and 90.

Dramatic Dimension

The death of his mother, the failure of his first opera: Antonín Dvořák was devastated emotionally when he composed his Trio in F minor in 1883 and did not have an easy time carrying out the task that he had set for himself. He eliminated a number of parts and replaced them with new ones. The listener notices nothing of these difficulties; on the contrary, never before had Dvořák composed such intensive, tightly constructed, and yet dramatic music as in his op. 65.

Op. 90 was for the nineteenth century not at all a typical piano trio. Dvořák's composition has six movements instead of four. Three of them are to be played "attacca subito," that is, with one linked directly to the next. The harmony also does correspond to the rulebook inasmuch as a firm tonic key cannot be made out. Finally, there is nary a trace of the typical sonata movement. The work known as "Dumky" (Thoughts) nevertheless numbers among the most-performed works of the piano trio literature. "Dumka" is also the designation for a Ukrainian folk song in a melancholy, plaintive tone.

The Max Brod Trio symbolizes European integration. Following 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 of different origin and diverse artistic experience, came together toward the goal of contributing to understanding between the cultures in an ensemble named for the German-language Jewish writer Max Brod, who was born in Prague. Their concerts and CD recordings quickly brought them remarkable international resonance and recognition.

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Piano Trio B-Dur D 898, Notturmo D 897

Audiomax 703 1608-2