Performing with youthful vigor, the Max Brod Trio brings together the late Archduke Trio and the early Trio op. 1,2 and in this way demonstrates the immense development not only of Beethoven’s compositional oeuvre but also within the genre of the piano trio – a fascinating glimpse at the music history of the early nineteenth century.

Beethoven did not lack self-confidence. He published a series of piano trios rather unusual for their times as his op. 1. And this was not all. With a scherzo or minuet he expanded the new genre to four movements and thus staked its claim to the same high esteem otherwise enjoyed only by the grand symphony.

The great esteem already enjoyed by the young composer among those knowledgeable in musical matters is also reflected in the fact that Prince Lichnowsky himself organized the subscription for the first printing with great success. And such support from noble patrons would continue throughout Beethoven’s life – beginning in 1809 Beethoven even received an annual salary without being required to perform any specific duties!

The Archduke Rudolph, a member of the imperial family and a talented pianist, played a substantial role here. Beethoven dedicated a number of works to him, including the famous Piano Trio op. 97 thenceforth known as the “Archduke Trio.” As in the early Trios op. 1, the piano part here also displays extraordinary virtuosity – might the Archduke himself have played it at the grand piano?

**Franz Schubert** (1797-1828)
Piano Trio B-Dur D 898, Notturno D 897
Max Brod Trio
Audiomax 703 1608-2

**Antonín Dvořák** (1841-1904)
Piano Trio op. 65, Dumky op. 90
Max Brod Trio
Audiomax 703 1682-2