

“Shostakovich and Weinberg: A story of loss and the healing power of friendship”

Performers:

Clive Greensmith: Cello

Adam Millstein: Violin

Dominic Cheli: Piano

Program:

Shostakovich: Piano Trio No.2 in E minor op.67 (1944)

I. Andante - Moderato

II. Allegro con brio

III. Largo

IV. Allegretto - Adagio

Intermission

Weinberg: Piano Trio in A minor op.24 (1945)

I. Prelude and Aria. Larghetto

II. Toccata. Allegro

III. Poem. Moderato

IV. Finale. Allegro moderato

In Weinberg's own words he stated, "My Moral Duty is to write about the horrors that befell mankind in our century." Indeed, he does so in his only piano trio, a work of grand scope and intense self-reflection. Shostakovich shared similar sentiments writing music that reflects the terror that befell so many during WWII. After fleeing the invading German forces in 1939 and 1941, Weinberg eventually made his way to Uzbekistan eventually meeting Shostakovich. In a poignant way, this friendship meant so much to Weinberg that he said: "It was as if I had been born anew...Although I took no lessons from him (Shostakovich) he was the first person to whom I would show each of my new works."

These two trios were written within a year of each other, and share many common motives and themes, demonstrating the exchange of ideas and shared commitment to music being a powerful tool for communication in both composers. These iconic works represent the beginning of what would be a lifelong friendship, and despite the music demonstrating intense strife, both share a common conclusion: a feeling of hope and belief that the inherit good in humanity has the ability to overcome evil.