



Soo-Jin Hong, violin
Soo-Kyung Hong, cello
Jens Elvekjaer, piano

"We can now see the Con Brio as the worthy successors of the legendary Beaux-Arts Trio. That says it all!"

- **Díapason**

"Radiant Russian memorials and unforgettable playing..."

- **BBC Music Magazine**

Acknowledged as one of the world's finest piano trios, the Trio con Brio Copenhagen's multifaceted members are not only performing artists who tour extensively, but also esteemed recording artists, artistic directors and educators. Founded at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna in 1999, the trio is now based in Copenhagen and tours worldwide.

The Trio was born out of an idea of the coming together of 'musical pairs' – of the two Korean-born sisters, Soo-Kyung Hong (cello) and Soo-Jin Hong (violin), with Soo-Kyung and her husband, Danish pianist Jens Elvekjaer. They quickly gained a reputation for their fresh and contemporary approach to the core repertoire. "Works by Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms are transformed in their hands into the alive-and-kicking music of today" said Danish Broadcasting's Esben Tange. Winning almost all of the major competitions for piano trio – including the ARD (Munich), Vittorio Gui (Florence), Trondheim Competition (Norway), Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson (USA), Allianz Prize (Germany) and the prestigious "P2 Artists Prize" (Denmark) – they are regularly heard at the world's leading venues and concert series. Among these, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall, Berlin Pierre Boulez-Saal, Concertgebouw, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Seoul Arts Centre, Louvre Paris and of course their beloved "home venues", DR Koncerthuset and the Tivoli Concert Hall, in Copenhagen.

Trio con Brio Copenhagen plays a central role in Scandinavia's vibrant contemporary music scene. Leading composers have dedicated works to the Trio. They were enormously honoured that Per Nørgård dedicated to them a new piece celebrating his 80th birthday in 2012. In January 2016 the trio presented the world premiere of Bent Sørensen's Triple Concerto with the Danish National Orchestra, a work that won the prestigious Grawemeyer Award. They premiered Sven-David Sandström's Triple Concerto, a work that marks his 70th birthday.

The ensemble's recordings have received tremendous critical acclaim. The latest album of Shostakovich and Arensky trios (Orchid Classics) was a *Gramophone* "Editor's Choice" and also singled out by *BBC Music Magazine* as a "Chamber Choice" of the month. The disc also just won the German Record Critics' Award (*Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik*), and was singled out among other winning titles including the Berlin Philharmonic, Frank Peter Zimmermann, and Quatuor Ebène. An album featuring the complete Beethoven piano trios (Orchid Classics) garnered broad, enthusiastic praise from critics and fans alike with the *BBC Music Magazine* calling it "a triumph." The Trio has also recorded the work of leading Scandinavian composers, including Per Nørgård, Bent Sørensen and Sven-David Sandström, who have written works for the group.

Reviews are fulsome. "One of the greatest performances of chamber music I've ever encountered," praised American Record Guide. *Gramophone* wrote, "Superb...Any group would be hard-pressed to imitate this blend of verve and poise..."

Their Mendelssohn album was chosen by the UK's Classic FM as the Best Chamber Music Disc of the year: "Every phrase soars and pulsates with the excitement of a fresh discovery as the Copenhagen players go the full distance with playing of skin-rippling sensitivity... sensational playing...". Their Tchaikovsky and Smetana recording was hailed by The Guardian, "... Trio con Brio Copenhagen scale Tchaikovsky's heights with the verve their name suggests ...". The trio's most recent recordings of the complete Beethoven piano trios were received with the highest critical acclaim, with comments such as "... I was struck... by the feeling of improvisation; of three players moving forward together into a strange and wonderful new world..." (Gramophone).

Trio con Brio Copenhagen serves as artistic directors of the annual festival, Chamber Music at Lundsgaard, and the Hellerup Chamber Music Society in Copenhagen.

Soo-Jin plays an Andrea Guarneri violin, Soo-Kyung plays a Grancino cello, and Jens is Denmark's first Steinway Artist. Both string players are endorsed by Jargar Strings and Thomastik-Infeld Vienna.

All three members of the trio knew right from the start that they would find their musical identities as a piano trio: "There is something about the configuration of a trio, about that triangle, that somehow focuses and amplifies the special understanding that we all have as people and as musicians. It is both a freedom and a fulfillment."

Updated Feb. 2022