

Damocles Trio

About

Founded by violinist Airi Yoshioka, cellist Sibylle Johner and pianist Adam Kent, Damocles Trio is equally versatile in both traditional and contemporary piano trio repertoire. Additionally, Damocles Trio's interpretation of the music from Hispanic regions have been documented on two acclaimed CDs: Complete piano trios of Joaquín Turina and Heitor Villa-Lobos as well as a world-premiere recording of Trio Brasileiro by Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez.

Trio Biography

The Damocles Trio was founded in 1996 by pianist Adam Kent, violinist Airi Yoshioka, and cellist Sibylle Johner, who met in the doctoral program at The Juilliard School. The trio has performed throughout the USA, appearing numerous times at Alice Tully Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, and completed highly successful tours of Switzerland in 1999, 2001 and 2003. Commenting on a performance in Interlaken, the *Oberländisches Tagblatt* wrote, "The members of this international trio were perfectly attuned to each other and interpreted the magnificent work (of Brahms) with great expressiveness," and a critic from the *Zürichsee Zeitung* enthused, "The three artists did justice to the great work of Beethoven with perfect harmony, courtly elegance, subtle coloration, and great virtuosity." The Damocles Trio was also invited to present a special memorial program in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of 9/11 at Trinity Church in New York City and has been frequently featured on Robert Sherman's "Young Artists Showcase" on WQXR radio.

The Damocles Trio's years of devotion to the music of Spain and Latin-America has won international recognition from a variety of sources. The Foundation for Iberian Music at the CUNY Graduate Center has presented the ensemble on numerous occasions, including its inaugural event in honor of pianist Alicia de Larrocha. In 2004, the trio's recording of Joaquín Turina's complete piano trios and quartet with Emerson Quartet violist Lawrence Dutton was released on Claves Records to widespread critical acclaim. *BBC Music Magazine* praised the performances for their "great swagger," *Scherzo* of Spain called the disc "a revelatory recording," and *Le Monde de la Musique* lauded the ensemble's "joyous interpretations." Claves Records released the ensemble's next disc in 2009, devoted to the complete piano trios of Heitor Villa-Lobos and the world-premiere recording of Oscar Lorenzo Fernández's *Trio Brasileiro*. The trio also conceived and directed, all underwritten by the Spanish Ministry for Education and Culture. Among the highlights of the festival were the premiere of Salvador

Brotóns's *Requiem Trio*, a panel discussion at the Foundation for Iberian Music at the CUNY Graduate Center with Cuban composer Tania León, and a performance at Merkin Concert Hall with guest artists violinist Stephen Clapp and violist Toby Appel. BargeMusic has presented the trio in programs of Spanish and Latin-American music, and the Spanish Consulate, Instituto Cervantes, the Museo del Barrio, and the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU have underwritten the trio's numerous Hispanic-themed projects.

Contemporary music has also figured prominently in the trio's programming, and the ensemble has appeared frequently on the Composers Now! series at Symphony Space as well as at the recent Live Wire! festival of new music at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Composers Eric Nathan, Anthony Korf, and Salvador Brotóns have written trios for the ensemble, and their recording of Linda Dusman's "Diverging Flints" was released in 2012.