

DEPARTMENT OF CHAMBER MUSIC
GUEST ARTIST MENTOR RESIDENCY RECITAL

HORSZOWSKI TRIO

JESSE MILLS, VIOLIN
OLE AKAHOSHI, CELLO
RIEKO AIZAWA, PIANO

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Walgreen Drama Center, Stamps Auditorium
8:00 PM

Divertimento for Piano Trio in B-flat Major, K.254 (1776) W. A. Mozart
Allegro assai (1756-1791)
Adagio
Rondo. Tempo di menuetto

Piano Trio #2 (2020) Charles Wuorinen
(1938–2020)

Michigan Premiere

Piano Trio (1937) Leonard Bernstein
Adagio non troppo – Più mosso – Allegro vivace (1918-1990)
Tempo di marcia
Largo – Allegro vivo et molto ritmico

Intermission

Piano Trio (1914) Maurice Ravel
Modéré (1908-2012)
Pantom. Assez vif
Passacaille. Très large
Final. Animé

This program was drafted and created by the artist in support of their performance
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Giving performances that are “lithe, persuasive” (The New York Times), “eloquent and enthralling” (The Boston Globe), and described as “the most compelling American group to come on the scene” (The New Yorker), the Horszowski Trio has quickly become a vital force in the international chamber music world since their formation in 2011. In 2023, the “Horszowski Trio Prize” was created by the prestigious Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, to award piano trio winners.

In 2019, the Horszowski Trio made its London debut in a sold-out concert presented by Wigmore Hall. Their success led to a 21-concert-tour in Germany in 2022, acclaimed by major critics: "This ensemble can play anything."; "With all the intensity of the expression that the three musicians achieve, they play in a finely tuned manner, span gripping musical arcs, work out surprising details, amaze with their interpretive imagination and stylistically confident sensitivity."; "While listening to their Dvorak Dumky Trio, you couldn't believe that it was not a Czech but an American ensemble playing."

The Trio takes its inspiration from the musicianship, integrity, and humanity of the pre-eminent pianist Mieczyslaw Horszowski (1892–1993); the ensemble’s pianist, Rieko Aizawa, was Horszowski’s last pupil at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Described as “power players” by the Los Angeles Times, the Horszowski Trio’s repertoire includes works by many of the composers with whom Mr. Horszowski had personal interaction, including Gabriel Fauré, Enrique Granados, Bohuslav Martinů, Maurice Ravel, Camille Saint-Saëns and Heitor Villa-Lobos.

The Horszowski Trio’s debut recording – an album of works by Gabriel Fauré, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Vincent d’Indy on the Bridge label – was released in 2014 and dedicated to the memory of Mieczyslaw Horszowski. Gramophone praised the “exemplary performance” of the “highly accomplished group,” concluding, “I long to hear more of the Horszowski Trio.” Their second recording, the complete piano trios of Robert Schumann on AVIE Records also received tremendous acclaim: “great care and affection” (BBC Radio); “intoxicating” (Gramophone); “exciting and deeply felt” (Strings); “fresh, supple and fantastic” (The Strad).

The Horszowski Trio is also a passionate advocate for the music of our time. Following their recording of the complete R. Schumann piano trios, they celebrated the 10th anniversary of their debut, presenting “Phantasiestücke Project – Homage to R. Schumann” with three new works by American composers from different generations: Derek Bermel, Paul Chihara and David Fulmer. In addition, the Trio’s violinist Jesse Mills, a two-time Grammy nominee who is also a composer and arranger, wrote “Painted Shadow” for the ensemble; the work was commissioned by and premiered at Bargemusic in Brooklyn, New York.

They worked closely with the legendary composer, Charles Wuorinen (1938-2020) when they performed his Trio No.1 in their debut concert at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. They aimed to continue their working relationship with the composer, but unfortunately Mr. Wuorinen passed away in 2020 unexpectedly. However, a year later, the score of his Trio No. 2 which had been written for the Horszowski Trio was discovered by his partner. The trio gave the world premiere of the work at the Library of Congress in 2025.

During the COVID pandemic, the trio managed to keep performing, including a special project of several performances of Morton Feldman’s epic, two-hour-long Piano Trio -- an

artistically rewarding and timely work which offered an opportunity for poignant reflection on the isolation of the times and a hopeful and spiritual oasis. That led to their recent repeat performance of the work in celebration of Feldman's 100th Anniversary. They performed on his actual 100th birthday, January 12, 2026 at State University of New York in Buffalo, where he taught and composed the work.

The Horszowski Trio is based in New York City. They are also passionate about working with the next generation of musicians. In addition to giving masterclasses at major conservatories, they work with Horszowski Trio Prize winning groups every year at the Mimir Festival, they have been active as a visiting ensemble-in-residence at such schools as the Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, and Longy School of Music. They also have a partnership with the Midori & Friends Foundation, working with the young musicians of New York City.