Music in West Kilbride Presents Trio Arisonto

22 November 2024, 7.30pm, West Kilbride Village Hall

Programme:

Volker David Kirchner: Lamento D'Orfeo (horn and piano)

Volker David Kirchner's Lamento d'Orfeo for horn and piano is a profound exploration of melancholy and longing. Inspired by the myth of Orpheus, the piece features a plaintive and expressive horn part, evoking the character's sorrowful lament. The piano provides a rich, resonant backdrop, creating a dialogue that underscores the horn's poignant, lyrical lines. Kirchner's work blends contemporary harmonic language with evocative, lyrical melodies, offering a deeply emotional and introspective experience.

Clara Schumann: 3 Romances Op 22. (violin and piano)

Clara Schumann's 3 Romances, Op. 22, written in 1855, are exquisite examples of Romantic chamber music. Each romance is characterized by its lyrical and intimate nature, showcasing Schumann's deep sensitivity and skilful writing. The first romance is tender and reflective, the second is vibrant and passionate, while the third features a dance-like quality. These pieces highlight the nuanced interplay between violin and piano, reflecting Schumann's remarkable ability to blend emotional depth with technical grace.

Mozart/Czerny.: Fantasy on The Marriage of Figaro Op 493 (piano solo)

The Fantasy on The Marriage of Figaro, Op. 493, arranged by Carl Czerny, is a virtuosic piano solo that celebrates the charm and wit of Mozart's opera. Czerny's arrangement distils the essence of Mozart's delightful melodies into a brilliant and exuberant piano work. The fantasy weaves together memorable themes from the opera, showcasing Czerny's skill in transforming operatic material into a dazzling and technically demanding showcase for the piano.

Mozart: Horn Quintet in E flat major (arranged for trio by Ernst Naumann)

Mozart's Horn Quintet in E-flat Major, K. 407, composed in 1782, is a hallmark of classical elegance and charm. Originally scored for horn, two violins, viola, and cello, this quintet is renowned for its rich interplay and virtuosic writing for the horn, which plays a prominent and melodious role throughout. In Ernst Naumann's arrangement for trio, the essence of the original work is preserved while adapting the textures for horn, violin, and piano. This arrangement highlights the horn's lyrical qualities and blends them seamlessly with the violin and piano. The quintet features an engaging blend of playful themes, graceful melodies, and sophisticated harmonies, reflecting Mozart's masterful ability to balance instrumental colour and formal structure. The arrangement offers a fresh perspective on Mozart's composition, making it accessible to a wider range of performers and audiences while retaining its original spirit and charm.

INTERVAL

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897): Horn Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 40 (1865)

- I. Andante Poco più animato
- II. Scherzo (Allegro)
- III. Adagio mesto
- IV. Finale (Allegro con brio)

Johannes Brahms' Horn Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 40 was composed in 1865, following the death of his mother. This was the first piece to be written for the unusual combination of horn, violin, and piano, where Brahms masterfully blends the horn's rich, pastoral tones with the violin's lyrical lines and the piano's grounding harmony.

The trio is in four movements: The first, Andante, begins lyrically, setting a reflective, almost nostalgic tone. The second movement, a lively Scherzo, is full of rhythmic energy and playful contrasts. At the heart of the piece is the slow, mournful Adagio mesto, an elegy for Brahms' mother, marked by its tender and sorrowful melodies. The final movement, Allegro con brio, brings a sense of closure, with joyful and energetic folklike themes that lead the trio to a triumphant conclusion.

This trio is notable for its emotional depth, blending elegy with energy. It showcases Brahms' mastery in balancing complex textures and moods, making it a beloved staple in the chamber music repertoire.