

POINSETT PIANO TRIO



DAVID GROSS, *PIANO*
DEIRDRE HUTTON, *VIOLIN*
CHRISTOPHER HUTTON, *VIOLONCELLO*



Poinsett Piano Trio

After having performed together with great success for several years in other chamber combinations, David Gross, Deirdre Hutton, and Christopher Hutton founded the **Poinsett Piano Trio** in 2008. All three members of the trio live in Greenville, South Carolina and teach at Furman University, an institution with a strongly performance-based music program. They made their first international tour to New Zealand in 2010. Their 2011-12 season includes playing Beethoven's Triple Concerto in Idaho, recitals in the Carolinas and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States, and a summer tour to Germany.

The ensemble is named in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, a statesman, physician, and botanist from South Carolina. Like the members of the trio he had an international life and career: living in England as a child, training in medical school in Scotland, traveling extensively in Europe and South America, and later was elected to Congress before serving as Minister (ambassador) to Mexico. Poinsett is most remembered today as the discoverer of the Mexican Poinsettia plant, whose bright red flowers are popularly included in festive Christmas decorations throughout the world. Visit the trio on the web at <http://www.poinsettpianotrio.com>



Pianist **David Gross** was born in Berlin (F.R. Germany) and presented his first public performance at the age of seven. He earned prizes at the international piano competitions in Marsala (1988), and Bremen (1993). David has taught at Western Michigan University, Goshen College and the Hochschule "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin (State Conservatory), and is currently Associate Professor of Piano at Furman University. He was educated at the Hochschule Munich, Hochschule Hannover, Yale University, and the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, and his teachers include Ludwig Hoffmann, Arie Vardi, Daniel Pollack, Claude Frank, and John Wustman. An active performer throughout Europe and the U.S., David has made numerous solo recordings for German National Public Radio as well as CD releases on Signum (Edouard Lalo, Piano Concerto) and Centaur (Jan Václav Voříšek, piano works). Solo appearances include with the Berliner Symphoniker, Staatsorchester Frankfurt/Oder, Ensemble Oriol (Berlin), Rockford Symphony (Illinois), Champaign-Urbana Symphony (Illinois), Greenville Symphony (South Carolina), Anderson Symphony (South Carolina), Macon Symphony (Georgia), Idaho State Civic Symphony, Merrimack Valley Philharmonic (Massachusetts), Brevard Philharmonic (North Carolina), and the Hendersonville Symphony (North Carolina).



Deirdre Hutton is the only member of the group to have been born in the United States, and holds dual American and Irish citizenship. She is an avid solo, chamber and orchestral performer having played at numerous music festivals throughout the United States including the National Repertory Orchestra, National Orchestral Institute, the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, and the Eastern Music Festival. In addition, Deirdre has performed in numerous orchestras in the US and Europe including the New World Symphony (Miami, Florida), the Schlossfestspiele Chamber Orchestra (Heidelberg, Germany), the North Carolina Symphony, the Charleston Symphony (South Carolina), the Knoxville Symphony (Tennessee), and the Greenville Symphony (South Carolina). She was Assistant Concertmaster of the Roanoke Symphony (Virginia). Deirdre studied at the Eastman School of Music with Oleh Krysa and earned her Master's degree with Roland and Almita Vamos at Northwestern University. While at Northwestern she was the Vamos's teaching assistant and taught violin lessons to undergraduate students. In addition, she studied in London under Itzhak Rashkovsky while a member of Haydn Chamber Symphony of London and as concertmaster of the Imperial Collegium Musicum Ensemble. She is currently Adjunct Professor of Violin at Furman University and also teaches a private studio of talented high-school students.





Cellist **Christopher Hutton** has performed in a broad range of settings, including duo recitals in his home country of New Zealand (most recently with pianists Paul Wyse, Sergey Schepkin, and Thomas Lausmann) and chamber music performances in New Zealand, the United States, and Europe. He has recorded for New Zealand's Concert FM, Germany's SWF Radio, and appears on a disc of contemporary music on Albany Classics. Christopher served as co-principal cellist in the New World Symphony Orchestra under music director Michael Tilson Thomas and has played in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra as well as other orchestras in the United States. He has enjoyed collaborating with various composers, notably New Zealanders Helen Bowater and Christopher Marshall and Georgia composer Mitchell Turner. Christopher studied at Boston University with Leslie Parnas, and earned his Masters and Doctorate with Paul Katz and Steven Doane at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. While at Eastman he was teaching assistant to Steven Doane. He later taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the University of Delaware, and the Eastern Music Festival before joining the faculty at Furman University in 2003 where he is Associate Professor of Violoncello and String Chamber Music.

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Critical Acclaim:

The following are comments excerpted from some of the reviews the Trio's first visit to New Zealand in 2010:

“Pianist David Gross, violinist Deirdre Hutton and cellist Christopher Hutton displayed impeccable ensemble skills and it was obvious that all three were extremely experienced chamber musicians. They played the early Beethoven work with flair and passion, sensitively bringing out the composer's intentions and the musicality of each movement. The Brahms trio was no less impressive with the well-written work receiving the weight and attention it deserved. One of the best things about the trio playing was the space each instrument was given when it was their time to shine. It was an illuminating and well performed concert.”

– Val Sheriff, Tauranga

“An enchanting and emotional experience. A surreal and magical journey.”

– Ben Curran, the Marlborough Express

“The Poinsett Piano Trio is indeed what Robbie Deans would term a champion team, blending seamlessly together with no-one overshadowing the rest.”

– Patrick Shepherd, The Christchurch Press

“This is an impressive ensemble with the quality of polished playing, immediately evident from the first item, by Rachmaninoff. [In the Beethoven] the texture was exceptionally clear and well balanced with very effective dynamic contrasts – each player contributing beautifully shaped melodic lines throughout all movements. Twentieth century music style was communicated just as successfully in a very committed and convincing performance of the Shostakovich [in which] the many sometimes disparate ideas [were combined] into an integrated performance.”

– Peter Williams, The Central Hawkes Bay Mail

“The ensemble playing was impeccable, with complete rapport between the players. There was nothing between the audience and the composer's intentions. This is a very able Trio, and I hope they will tour again before too long.”

– Rosemary Collier, Middle C Concert Reviews

“If you get a chance to hear the Poinsett Trio for yourself, you should grab it with both hands.”

– Paul Serotsky, Seen and Heard International



Proposed Programme for May 2013:

For May of 2013 we are offering music covering the entire span of the piano trio repertoire, from classical-period Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, to the romantic heavy-weights Johannes Brahms and Antonín Dvořák, the impressionistic colour palette of Gabriel Fauré, a rollicking piece by Paul Schoenfield, and a humorous recent work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom. Bolcom's piece can be seen in some ways as bringing everything full circle as it toys with the gestures and styles of "Papa" Haydn.

All of this music is both accessible and appealing to audiences. Our suggested programme is that of Mozart, Brahms, Fauré, and Schoenfield, but we also offer the possibility of Dvořák and Bolcom to substitute for either Mozart/Brahms or Fauré/Schoenfield.

Complete programme notes will be provided after engagement.

Trio in C major, K. 548 (1788)

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Written within weeks of the brilliant "Jupiter" Symphony with which it shares a key, this is a substantial yet bright trio that shows Mozart's characteristic wit and charm. (19')

Trio in C minor, Op. 101 (1886)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Mature Brahms at his best. This is perhaps the darkest and most concentrated of his piano trios, leavened by the contrasting inner scherzo and intermezzo movements. (21')

– Interval –

Trio, Op. 120 (1923)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Among Fauré's last compositions, this graceful piece has the singing quality for which Fauré is so acclaimed, in the dappled sound-world of impressionism. (22')

Café Music (1986)

Paul Schoenfield (b. 1947)

A rollicking, virtuosic piece that blends jazz and popular style elements into a brilliant piano trio in three movements. (16')

Alternative "Half" to be substituted for either Mozart/Brahms or Fauré/Schoenfield above:

Trio in E min, Op. 90 (1891)

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

One of the best-loved works in the piano trio repertoire, with good reason. The "Dumky" trio combines Bohemian laments with toe-tapping folk dances. (33')

Recommended (but optional) addition to Dvořák:

Introduzione e Rondo "Haydn go seek" (2008)

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

One of the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer's most recent works, this piece plays on the style of Joseph Haydn, one of the first masters of the piano trio. (11')



Sample Photos:

All pictures are taken by Renee Carolla: <http://www.reneecarolla.com>
High Resolution digital photos are available for press and promotional purposes.



