

# FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC



In Cooperation with Pacific's Conservatory of Music, Present

## Trio 180

**Ann Miller**, *violin*

**Vicky Wang**, *cello*

**Sonia Leong**, *piano*

*2:30 pm, Sunday February 15, 2025*  
*Faye Spano Concert Hall*  
*University of the Pacific*

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**Saans (Breath) (2017)**

**Reena Esmail**  
(b 1983)

**Piano Trio (1921)**

**Rebecca Clarke**  
(1886-1979)

**Piano Trio No. 1 Op 32 in D Minor (1894)**

**Anton Arensky**  
(1861-1906)

**Elegie, Op 23 (1902)**

**Josef Suk**  
(1874-1935)



# Trio 180

Trio 180, the faculty piano trio-in-residence at the University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music, is dedicated to its roles as performer, proponent of new music, and educator. The trio mentors young musicians and chamber music groups at the University of the Pacific's Conservatory of Music, where all three members are on faculty. In addition to giving concerts and master classes throughout the United States, the trio has been featured on concert series in Mexico and Canada. This talented ensemble includes celebrated concert violinist Ann Miller, renowned cellist Vicky Wang, and award-winning pianist Sonia Leong.

Trio 180 performs a wide range of music from the Classical era to the present and is an active advocate of new music. They have premiered a wide range of new music for a piano trio, including composer Chen Yi's first piano trio, *Tibetan Tunes*, Eric Wood's *Elgin Movements* (2022), and Robert Coburn's *a depth of silence* (2018).

The trio has been featured at *Chamber Music America's* National Conference in New York, as well as the Music Teachers' Association of California's Annual Convention. It has toured to Vancouver, Canada, and Ajijic, Mexico; presented numerous performances for *Composers Inc.* in San Francisco and Berkeley; and given concerts at Del Valle Fine Arts (Livermore); the Crocker Art Museum (Sacramento); and the Mondavi Center (Davis).

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## **Saans (Breath) (2017) Reena Esmail**

Saans ( Translates to “Breath” in Hindi), written by Reena Esmail (2017), premiered as a wedding gift for Suzana Bartal. A soulful piano trio (violin, cello, piano), it explores the themes of connection, love and personal resonance, blending Indian Hindustani traditions with Western classical styles. Think of it as a conversation between loved ones. The Yale Daily News describes Saans as

creating “an ethereal and tender atmosphere that bridges traditions and offers a deeply personal yet universally resonant musical experience.” Look for the “vocal, improvisatory and personal dialogue between the instruments” beginning with a humming sound.

## **Piano Trio (1921) Rebecca Clarke**

British-born Rebecca Clarke was a composer at a time of significant prejudice against women composers.

Studying composition at the Royal College of Music with C. V. Stanford, in 1909, Clarke began composing music with her first major success a viola piece *Morpheus*. The publisher convinced Clarke to write as “Anthony Trent”. In 1921, “Anthony Trent” entered the Berkshire competition with her Piano Trio, the work we hear this evening. With the success of her Piano Trio, her publisher asked her to compose under her own name a *Rhapsody for Cello and Piano* for the 1923

Berkshire Festival. But eventually, given the continuing disinterest of publishers, she composed nothing in the last 35 years of her life.

The Piano Trio is in three movements, linked by a theme heard at the beginning and repeated in the other movements. The whole work weaves between intense and dissonant passages and lyricism. Listen for the “trumpet sound” that notes the beginning of new ideas in the work.

Of the three movements, the first begins with a motto theme that is developed and then a lyrical theme is introduced. The movement ends with another statement of the motto.

The second movement features muted strings and an ethereal feel with the motto theme becoming lyrical with an almost folk-like melody.

The third movement is energetic and perky with a slow elegiac return of the motto theme.

### **Piano Trio No. 1 Op 32 in D Minor (1894) Anton Arensky**

Arensky's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor, Op. 32 (1894) is a romantic masterpiece of

Russian lyricism and German Romanticism. It is famous for its lyrical depth and brilliant writing, dedicated to cellist Karl Davidoff (1838-1889), director of the St. Petersburg Conservatory.

The Piano Trio features four movements.

The first movement is a passionate Allegro moderato (Sonata form) with a gentle, lyrical melancholic theme introduced by the violin, later shared with the cello.

The second movement is a spirited Scherzo (waltz-like, contrasting moods), that is light, airy, with delicate violin figures, swooping scales, and energetic piano work, providing a playful escape.

The third movement is an Elegia mourning Davidoff, featuring muted strings, with a tender and sad melody between the instruments that creates a memorial for Davidoff.

The fourth movement is a Finale (rondo-like). It is a turbulent ending with the melancholic theme from the first movement and the theme of hope from the Elegia. The ending is then one of joyous transcendence.

### **Elegie, Op 23 (1902) Josef Suk**

The beautiful Elegie, Op 23, from 1902, was written by Josef Suk (1874-1935) for a memorial event celebrating the life of Julius Zeyer (1841-1901). Zeyer wrote novels and epic poems steeped in the history and legends of Bohemia. Suk wanted to reflect a deep, poignant, lyrical feeling in his Elegie.

Originally written for a string sextet with harp and harmonium, it was then re-scored by Suk for piano trio that clearly expresses the lyricism he intended. He opens with a yearning phrase that is repeated and developed by violin and cello, returning in the central section where the melodic emphasis of the violin and cello is accompanied by a stormy background provided by the piano and then a passionate interruption, with the melody from the opening returning. A dramatic central section retains the melodic emphasis in the violin and cello, with stormy textural background provided by the piano. The interruption is brief, however, and ultimately the glorious post-romantic effusion of the opening prevails.

# 69th Season 25-26

Presented in Cooperation  
with University of Pacific  
Conservatory of Music:  
Peter Witte, Dean

## Telegraph Quartet

2:30 pm Sunday  
September 14, 2025  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall

## Neave Trio

2:30 pm Sunday  
October 5, 2025  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall

## Seraph Brass

2:30 pm, Sunday  
November 2, 2025  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall

## Trio 180

2:30 pm, Sunday  
February 15, 2026  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall

## Erinyes Quartet

2:30 pm, Sunday  
April 19, 2026  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall

Q&A Follows all Concerts  
**To Our Audience**

- The use of cameras and recording devices of any kind is not allowed.
- There is no smoking in the building.
- Please turn off cellular phones and disengage audible signals on all digital devices during the concert.
- Concert Programs are subject to change without notice.
- Seating is unreserved
- Contributions and memorials are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Tickets are available at the door or online at [chambermusicfriends.org](http://chambermusicfriends.org)**  
Adult: Single \$30, Season \$115  
UOP/Delta Faculty & OLLI (with ID): \$20, Season \$80  
Students with ID: Free  
Children 12 and younger: Free  
Please no babes in arms. At the request of the artists, children should not sit in the first four rows.

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