

**MARTINŮ PIANO TRIO** (Petr Jirikovsky - piano, Jaroslav Matejka - cello, Pavel Safarik - violin) was formed at the Prague Conservatoire in 1990, and continued to study at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague under the guidance of Professor Antonin Kohout (a member of the well-known Smetana Quartet). In 1996-7 they studied for two years at the Vienna Hochschule fur Musik under Professor Michael Schnitzler, a member of the Haydn Trio, and have taken part in several series of master classes, the most notably in the Netherlands under Sandor Devich and Menahem Pressler, a member of the Beaux Arts Trio. Very soon they have become famous worldwide and have embarked on a trajectory paved with success and awards. These have included semi-final standing in the international competition at Trapani (Italy), third prize in the International Contest of Chamber Ensembles at Heerlen (The Netherlands) in 1992, and most notably, **victory in the same competition three years later, in 1995**. In 1995 the ensemble also received the annual Award of the Czech Chamber Music Society (CCMS) attached to the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since then Trio Martinu has toured Japan (2005), Korea (2015), Spain, the Netherlands, England and other countries in Europe and has appeared at major international festivals and venues, such as Musashi Hall in Tokyo, Seoul Arts Center, Grand Hall in Daegu (2015), the Rudolfinum in Prague (2015), or the **Amsterdam's Concertgebouw** (July 2016).

The Trio's **discography** encompasses 6 CDs recorded under the labels of the Czech, German and Belgian recording companies. In June 2014 they released a live CD with Beethoven's Triple Concerto which was performed with the Prague Symphony Orchestra under the Chinese conductor Muhai Tang; and in March 2017 it was their last studio recording of the **Complete Bohuslav Martinu** piano trios for the German label Musicaphon.

Within the last five years, Trio Martinu was invited to perform at **all the most famous Czech festivals**, such as: The Prague Spring Festival (1999, 2014), the Prague Proms (2013), Bohulav Martinu Festival in Policka (May 2014), the International Festival of Chamber Music in Piest'any, Slovakia (June 2014), the International Festival in Cesky Krumlov (August 2014), Janacek May Festival (2016), or Antonin Dvorak's Festival in Olomouc (2016).

In May 2016 Trio Martinu took part in the prestigious Leamington Spa Chamber Music Festival in England, and now they have been invited to perform at the **Petworth** Festival (July 2018), or London **Wimbledon** Festival (November 2018).

In October 2017 Trio Martinu performed in Toronto – Canada for the first time, and in July 2018 they were invited to the **Portland Summer Festival**, where they will have a week of residency and give a recital introducing the Czech chamber pieces, and then they will **perform the Beethoven's Triple Concerto** again with the Portland Festival Orchestra.

For the subsequent seasons **2018/2019** they will concentrate on rehearsing several new programmes for their **America tours**, where they plan to fly again in Autumn 2018 and Spring / Summer 2019.

All the three members are outstanding soloists and record regularly for the Czech Radio. Pavel Safarik and Jaroslav Matejka have been engaged in the **Prague Symphony Orchestra** as assistant leaders for many years, and Petr Jirikovsky, except his solo performances, teaches piano at the Prague Conservatoire.