



MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR

Presented by Music at the Red Door


# SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC

## The Claremont Trio



- Free admission
- In-person & livestreamed
- Donations welcome  
(suggested donation: \$20)
- Reception to follow

**Friday, March 21, 2025 7:30pm**

 The Richard P. Garmany Fund

**ROBERTS  
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Music at the Red Door  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
679 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
[RedDoorMusic.org](http://RedDoorMusic.org)

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Music at the Red Door is supported in part by the **Richard P. Garmany Fund** at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the **Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation**, and the **Marjorie Jolidon Fund** of the Greater Hartford Chapter – American Guild of Organists. Additional support comes from the **State of Connecticut**, Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/ Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.



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# PROGRAM

Piano Trio in E Major, Hob. XV: 28

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

- I. Allegro moderato
- II. Allegretto
- III. Allegro

Queen of Hearts

Kati Agócs (b. 1975)

Queen of Hearts, my Piano Trio #1, was written for the Claremont Trio in 2017 on commission from Chamber Music Northwest, David Shifrin, artistic director. Cast in a variation form that flows without pause in a single fourteen-minute trajectory, the work alternates a chaconne (a repeating pattern in the bass) with a lyrical melody. These two elements unfold as a dialectical pair, at first separate and later layered together. At the heart of this work is the idea of resilience. A life fully lived may see challenges that can seem insurmountable. The work's variation structure, by representing tenaciousness and ingenuity – continuously finding new ways to respond – ultimately reveals an inner strength and an emotional core that hold steadfast and unshaken no matter how they are tested. The title Queen of Hearts is a whimsical reference to the “mother of higher love” card in a deck of playing cards. This card symbolizes resilience, magnetism, nobility, empathy, decorum, a flair for the dramatic, and a distinctly feminine power. - Kati Agócs, 2021

Café Music (1986)

Paul Schoenfield (1947-2024)

Paul Schoenfield writes music that combines classical, folk, and popular forms. Once an active concert pianist, Schoenfield now teaches composition at the University of Michigan. The composer wrote the following note about Café Music:

“The idea to compose Café Music first came to me in 1985 after sitting in one night for the pianist at Murray’s Restaurant in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Murray’s employs a house trio that plays entertaining dinner music in a wide variety of styles. My intention was to write a kind of high-class dinner music which could be played at a restaurant but might also (just barely) find its way into a concert hall. The work draws on many of the types of music played by the trio at Murray’s. For example, early 20th-century American, Viennese, light classical, gypsy, and Broadway styles are all represented. A paraphrase of a beautiful Chassidic melody is incorporated in the second movement.

“Café Music was commissioned by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) and received its premiere during a SPCO chamber concert in January 1987.”

Piano Trio in D minor, op. 63

Robert Schuman (1810-1856)

- I. Mit Energie und Leidenschaft
- II. Lebhaft, doch nicht zu rasch
- III. Langsam, mit inniger Empfindung
- IV. Mit Feuer

## CLAREMONT TRIO

*Emily Bruskin, violin*

*Julia Bruskin, cello*

*Sophiko Simsive, piano*

Lauded as “one of America’s finest young chamber groups” *Strad Magazine*, the Claremont Trio is sought after for its thrillingly virtuosic and richly communicative performances. First winners of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award and the only piano trio ever to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, the Claremonts are consistently lauded for their "aesthetic maturity, interpretive depth, and exuberance" (*Palm Beach Daily News*).

In 2022 the Claremont Trio released *Queen of Hearts*, an album of music composed especially for the trio by six of today’s leading composers – Gabriela Lena Frank, Sean Shepherd, Judd Greenstein, Helen Grime, Nico Muhly and Kati Agócs. Highlights of their 2022-23 season include return engagements at Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, New York’s Music Mondays, and the Polinger Artists of Excellence Series at the Bender JCC of Greater Washington. They will also debut at the Blue Hill Concert Association (ME) and perform at Concerts at the Point (MA) and Broward College (FL).

During the past season, the Claremont Trio performed for Portland Friends of Chamber Music, the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem, and recorded and performed Eric Sawyer's triple concerto and John Harbison's double concerto with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. Other recent engagements include Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, Boston’s Celebrity Series, Chicago’s Dame Myra Hess Series, Pasadena’s Coleman Chamber Music Association, Johns Hopkins University, the Austin Chamber Music Festival, Stanford Lively Arts, Kansas City Friends of Chamber Music, along with the Chamber Music Societies of Phoenix, Dallas, Sedona, San Antonio, Buffalo, and the Universities of Washington, Wisconsin, and Missouri. The Trio has performed the Beethoven Triple Concerto with orchestras such as the Nashville Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Pacific Symphony, and Utah Symphony. The group also appears regularly at festivals including Ravinia, Saratoga, Mostly Mozart, Caramoor, Skaneateles, Rockport, Bard, and Norfolk.



American Modern Recordings released the Claremont Trio's recording of Robert Paterson's works, including Claremont Trio commission "Moon Trio", in December of 2016. *Gramophone* magazine praised the Trio's "poetry and... thrilling virtuosity" in their Beethoven "Triple" Concerto with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, recently released on Bridge Records. Of their Beethoven & Ravel CD, one reviewer raved "These are some of the most impassioned, moving, and notable readings of these favorites that I have ever heard, bar none." (*Audiophile Audition*). Their discography also includes Mendelssohn Trios, Shostakovich and Arensky Trios, and American Trios with works by Leon Kirchner, Ellen Zwilich, Paul Schoenfield, and Mason Bates. A collaborative disc with clarinetist Jonathan Cohler garnered a glowing review in *Fanfare* magazine and received a Critic's CHOICE award from *BBC Magazine*.

In addition to the works on their newest CD, the Claremont Trio has also commissioned new trios by Donald Crockett, Robert Paterson, Paul Chihara, Sharon Farber, Howard Frazin, Daniel Kellogg, and Hillary Zipper. They have conducted master classes at the Columbia University, Eastman School of Music, Duke University, New England Conservatory Preparatory Division, Peabody Conservatory's Preparatory Division, and the Boston Conservatory.

The Claremont Trio was formed in 1999 at the Juilliard School. Twin sisters Emily Bruskin and Julia Bruskin grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and they both play old French instruments. Emily's violin is a Lupot from 1795; Julia's cello is a J.B. Vuillaume from 1849. Sophiko Simsvive grew up in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Claremonts are all now based in New York City near their namesake: Claremont Avenue.

For more information about the Claremont Trio, please visit [www.claremonttrio.com](http://www.claremonttrio.com).



Katherine H Womer Benjamin, Founder & Managing Director  
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## 2024-2025 SEASON

### MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR

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# Please join us for the remainder of Music at the Red Door 2024-2025 Season

## Major Events

May 2 at 7:30pm - Dreams II with Ed Fast and Congabop

## Choral Evensong

March 30 at 5:00pm - featuring the St. John's Adult Choir and Choir School

## Pipes Alive! First Sunday of the month at 12:30pm

April 6 - Sarah Ku

May 4 - Angela Kraft Cross

June 1 - Christa Rakich

## Kids Community Music Camp

August 18-22

## New World Trio

April 13

All events will be presented in person and by livestream. Schedule is subject to change.  
Mark your calendar today!





**Photos from Dreams 2024**

**Join us for Dreams II with Congabop  
on Friday May 2 at 7:30pm!**

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