

# MORGENSTERN TRIO

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Stefan Hempel, violin  
Emanuel Wehse, cello  
Catherine Klipfel, piano



## Piano Trio (1916–17, rev. 1978)

Germaine Tailleferre (1892–1983)

- I. Allegro animato
- II. Allegro vivace
- III. Moderato
- IV. Très animé

## Piano Trio in D minor, Op. 120 (1923)

Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

- I. Allegro ma non troppo
- II. Andantino
- III. Allegro vivo

## D'un matin de printemps (1917–1918)

Lili Boulanger (1893–1918)

## INTERMISSION

## Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8 (1854, rev. 1889)

Johannes Brahms (1810–1856)

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Scherzo. Allegro molto
- III. Adagio
- IV. Finale. Allegro

The Morgenstern Trio is represented by Christina Daysog Concert Artists.

*This concert is the annual Coogan Concert made possible by Deborah W. Coogan  
and is in memory of her late husband Peter Weston Coogan.*



## NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

Isabella Stewart Gardner made it a point to meet both Johannes Brahms and Gabriel Fauré. Relics of her relationship with the two composers are in the collection still, including a cigarette Brahms rolled for her and the musical autograph of one of Fauré's late piano works. It is a joy to welcome the Morgenstern Trio in their Gardner debut to perform piano trios of both composers. Fauré died in 1924, three months after Isabella Stewart Gardner died; his only piano trio, written in 1923, is the second-to-last work he wrote.

—George Steel, *Abrams Curator of Music*



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

"The Morgenstern Trio gave a smashing debut Thursday evening at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. In works by Ravel, Bernstein, and Brahms, the group displayed a unanimity, polished technique, and musical imagination that I thought had vanished from the scene with the demise of the Beaux Arts Trio."—*Washington Post*

Named after the popular 19th-century German poet Christian Morgenstern, the Morgenstern Trio was formed in 2005, while Catherine Klipfel, Stefan Hempel, and Emanuel Wehse were students at the Folkwang Conservatory in Essen, Germany. After only a few short years of

working together, the Morgenstern Trio emerged on the German music scene by winning top prizes and awards, including first prize at the International Joseph Haydn Competition in Vienna and two second prizes: the Fifth Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition and the prestigious ARD International Music Competition in Munich, where they also received the audience prize.

In 2010, the Morgenstern Trio won the prestigious Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio Award in the USA. This prize catapulted them onto the music scene in the USA with performances in Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center and at Carnegie Hall and other venues in New York, followed by concerts in such cities as Chicago, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Carmel, Louisville, Lexington, and Palm Beach, where they received superlative reviews and immediate re-invitations for following seasons.

The Morgenstern Trio was also selected by ECHO (the European Concert Hall Organization) as a "Rising Star," which gave them debut concerts at important European concert venues during the 2009–10 season, in cities such as Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Cologne, Brussels, Birmingham, and Stockholm, to name a few.

The summer of 2014 marked the inauguration of their own Morgenstern Festival in Germany, offering eclectic programs with guest artists. Other festival appearances include the Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, France, the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Heidelberger Fruehling, the WDR-Musikfest, and the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland.

The trio's mentors, such as the Alban Berg Quartett and Menahem Pressler, have given them invaluable coaching and musical insight. The Morgenstern Trio was named ensemble-in-residence at their alma mater, the Folkwang Conservatory.

## COOGAN CONCERT

### Peter Weston Coogan (1944–2020)

Peter W. Coogan was a modern-day Renaissance man with diverse interests and great ability. A graduate of Roxbury Latin School, Harvard College, and Harvard Law School, Peter worked in Washington, D.C., clerking for Judge J. Skelly Wright and serving as an assistant to Senator Birch Bayh (D-Ind). Peter then moved back to Massachusetts where he had a successful 37-year career at the Boston law firm of Foley Hoag LLP. For many years Peter chaired the firm's business department, and from 1989 to 1994 he was a managing partner of the firm. His practice spanned the gamut of business specialties, including banking, corporate finance, securities, intellectual property, technology transfer, licensing, life sciences, mergers and acquisitions, and venture capital and emerging companies.

Peter was passionate about classical music, although whenever asked about his musical talent, he would say that he excelled only in playing the stereo. Peter and his wife Debbie were generous supporters of charities, including Vermont Public Radio and the University of Arizona School of Music in Tucson, Arizona. Peter and Debbie especially loved to attend afternoon classical music concerts, and when Peter died of COVID in early April 2020, the family chose to use Peter's charitable bequest for four memorial concerts at the

Gardner Museum in Peter's memory. Debbie regularly attends Gardner concerts and she is now endowing the Coogan Concert Fund so that a memorial concert will occur annually in perpetuity.

Peter is survived by his wife Deborah Willard Coogan; daughter Tracy Coogan Plants and her husband Todd Plants; son Christopher Willard Coogan and his wife Margaret Sloan; Peter's grandson Finn Michael Coogan Plants; his grandson Sawyer Weston Coogan Plants; his granddaughter Eleanor Jean Coogan; his granddaughter Lucy Sloan Coogan; his nephew Peter N. Merrill and his wife Elyse Holsberg; Peter's grand-niece Olivia R. Merrill; and Peter's brother-in-law David O. Merrill and his wife Charlotte Wheaton Merrill.



# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

## SŌ PERCUSSION

Sunday, April 6

## STRING TRIO:

GENEVA LEWIS, VIOLIN |

YURA LEE, VIOLA |

JAY CAMPBELL, CELLO

Sunday, April 13

## STERLING ELLIOTT, CELLO

WITH WYNONA WANG, PIANO

Sunday, April 27

Kindly turn off all electronic devices during the concert and refrain from any photography or filming in the hall. Also, please note the location of the emergency exit doors: across the hall from the doors through which you entered.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resides on the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, who belong to this place and continue to regard these lands and waters as sacred.

Music at the Gardner is supported by Nora McNeely Hurley / Manitou Fund. Hemenway & Barnes LLP is the lead corporate sponsor of the Weekend Concert Series. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, New Music USA's Organization Fund, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

