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The **CORDA PIANO TRIO** showcases exceptional musicianship in their debut album, delivering a compelling and refined interpretation of pivotal piano trio repertoire. The album commemorates musical anniversaries by presenting three seminal works for piano trio. It marks the centennial of **Gabriel Fauré's** penultimate composition - *Piano Trio in D Minor, Op. 120* - alongside **Dmitri Shostakovich's** early, substantial work in the medium: *Trio élégiaque No. 1 in G minor*. Bridging these two is a youthful piano trio by **Sergei Rachmaninoff**, *Piano Trio No. 1 in C minor, Op. 8*, selected for its stylistic affinity and to honour the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth.

This carefully curated programme not only celebrates rich musical legacies but also highlights the native Serbian Trio's versatility and deep connection to each composer's unique voice. Fans of chamber music will find in this album a blend of historical significance and vibrant, heartfelt performance.



The Art of Three

FAURÉ • RACHMANINOFF • SHOSTAKOVICH

CORDA PIANO TRIO

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845–1924)

1-3 PIANO TRIO IN D MINOR, OP. 120

Allegro ma non troppo – Andantino - Allegro vivo

This trio is Fauré's penultimate work, composed between 1922 and 1923 at the request of his publisher, Jacques Durand. A surge of creative inspiration struck the ageing composer during a summer retreat in Annecy-le-Vieux, where he completed the central slow movement, while the outer movements were written during the following winter in Paris. Initially sketched with the idea of giving the violin part to the clarinet, Fauré eventually decided to list the violin into the instrumentation. Both versions remain in modern performance practice. The work is marked by a clearly delineated form and an exceptionally successful balance between the piano and the string instruments.

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943)

4 TRIO ÉLÉGIAQUE NO. 1 IN G MINOR

Rachmaninoff wrote Trio élégiaque No. 1 at the age of 19, and premiered it two weeks later at his Moscow debut in January 1892. Although clearly influenced by Tchaikovsky and youthful in character, the work reveals the emerging traits of Rachmaninoff's personal musical language. Structured as a single-movement work, it parallels the first movement of Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A minor and, like it, concludes with a funeral march. Yet the treatment of melody and the unique crescendo of energy preceding the melancholic close, signal characteristics of Rachmaninoff's distinctive compositional voice.

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH (1906–1975)

5 PIANO TRIO NO. 1 IN C MINOR, OP. 8

Shostakovich wrote this trio at the age of 17, a romantically inclined, single-movement work in sonata form. This early composition reflects Shostakovich's formative phase, heavily influenced by the tradition of late Romanticism. The work is notable for its sudden mood shifts and textural contrasts; and despite being a product of his youth, the trio already demonstrates Shostakovich's craft and originality – with lyrical themes, sharp harmonies, and dramatic climaxes that he would later refine into a mature and one-of-a-kind musical language. After its premiere the work was withdrawn by the composer and forgotten for nearly 60 years, but was rediscovered and finally published in 1983.

Total playing time: 44:03



The **CORDA PIANO TRIO** is a Serbian ensemble formed in 2022, with **Una Stanić** (violin), **Nemanja Stanković** (cello), and **Vladimir Milošević** (piano). They have earned widespread acclaim, performing at top Serbian festivals and venues like the Kolarac Endowment and Belgrade Philharmonic. They received the 2023 "Concert of the Year" award and the "Despot Stefan Lazarević Award" for Musical Creativity. Since 2024, they have been ensemble-in-residence at the Kolarac Endowment. Their performances are noted for skill, expressiveness, and distinctive presence.