

Iris Trio Bios

Short

Praised for their “beauty of sound and striking expression” (Bremen Weser Kurier), the Iris Trio (clarinetist Christine Carter, violist Molly Carr, and pianist Anna Petrova) is known for their imaginative programming and powerhouse performances. Their 2013 debut at the German Consulate in New York City was met by a sold-out audience and followed by an immediate invitation to the prestigious Mozartfest in Würzburg, Germany. The Trio subsequently gave the world premiere of Christof Weiß’s *Conversation Among Friends* at the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Residence Palace and were featured in Michael Wende & Andreea Varga’s documentary, *MozartLabor*. They have since appeared at venues throughout North America and Europe, including a tour of their program, *Homage and Inspiration*, across Germany. Their debut album by the same name, recorded at the Sendesaal in Bremen Germany, was released in 2020 on Coviello Classics to international acclaim. The Canadian Broadcasting Company selected it as one of “10 upcoming Canadian classical albums to get excited about,” Fanfare Magazine praised it as “a five-star, real stand-out release,” and Classical-Modern Music Review commented, “these are extraordinarily, mutually attuned practitioners that deserve our acclaim.”

The Iris Trio’s recent engagements include residencies at both the University of Louisville in the US and Memorial University in Canada, concert tours in Canada and Europe, and the launch of *Project Earth* - a multi-chapter interdisciplinary project reflecting on our complex relationship with nature. The members of the Iris Trio hold faculty positions at the Juilliard School, Bard College Conservatory of Music, University of Louisville, and Memorial University, and have performed around the world on several of the major concert stages from Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall to the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Sydney Opera House.

www.iritrio.com

Full

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In 2018 the Iris Trio toured their project, *Homage and Inspiration*, across Germany, pairing works by Schumann and Mozart with modern tributes to these masterpieces by

György Kurtág and Christof Weiß. The Bremen Weser Kurier commented on the ensemble's "tremendously expressive, exciting and pointed performance," the Amberger Zeitung remarked that "their ensemble playing is simply fabulous, perfectly balanced, admirable in its rhythmic security and virtuosity," and the Augsburg Allgemeine offered "... it was a musical and lively performance, strong in the technical nuances, and with an exquisite balance of sound." The final concert of the tour took place at the renowned Sendesaal in Bremen, where the Trio recorded their debut album, *Homage and Inspiration*. The album was released in 2020 on the German Coviello Classics label to international acclaim. The Canadian Broadcasting Company named it "one of the top 10 upcoming Canadian albums to get excited about," Spain's Ritmo Magazine designated it a special release, noting that the Trio had "admirable sound balance ... delicacy and profound knowledge," and Fanfare Magazine praised the album as "a five-star, real stand-out release."

The Iris Trio continues to commission and champion the work of inspiring living artists. *Project Earth*, their most recent interdisciplinary commissioning project, combines chamber music and poetry through collaborations with such celebrated poets as Don McKay and Karen Solie (both Griffin Poetry Prize Winners), and internationally acclaimed cross-genre composers, including Canadian jazz artists Florian Hoefner and Andrew Downing, and singer-songwriter Sarah Slean. Through this multi-chapter project, the Trio strives to illuminate the impact of human behavior on the environment, addressing issues of climate change, pollution, habitat degradation, and biodiversity loss.

The Iris Trio's recent engagements include residencies at the University of Louisville, Kentucky and Memorial University in St. John's, Canada, as well as concert tours in Canada and Europe. All three members of the Trio are active recitalists and educators in their own right. Collectively, they hold faculty positions at the Juilliard School, Bard College Conservatory of Music, University of Louisville, and Memorial University, and have performed around the world on many of the major concert stages from Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall to the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Sydney Opera House.

www.iristrio.com

Individual Bios

Canadian clarinetist **Christine Carter** has performed at venues across the globe, from Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera House. Highlights have included performances at the Mozarthaus in Vienna, German Consulate in New York City, and Palfy Palace in Prague. She has completed artist residencies at the Mozart Festival Würzburg (Germany), Málaga Clásica Festival (Spain), Shenzhen International Woodwind Festival (China), and six seasons with the *Dark by Five* inter-arts ensemble at Gros Morne Summer Music in Newfoundland. Christine frequently collaborates with *Duo Concertante*, including two CD releases on Marquis Classics, and is the clarinetist of the critically acclaimed *Iris Trio*. She has been praised for her "special passion and inspiration" (Augsburger

Allgemeine), “seductive tone and effortless fluidity” (The Clarinet), and “golden legato” (Fanfare Magazine). Christine has also performed extensively as an orchestral musician, including engagements with the New World Symphony (Miami), Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, YouTube Symphony Orchestra, and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra (New York), as well as under the batons of some of the world’s finest conductors, such as Lorin Maazel, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, and Fabio Luisi. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Manhattan School of Music and is Associate Professor of Music at Memorial University in St. John's. Christine is a Buffet Crampon Artist.

www.christine-carter.com

Praised for her "intoxicating" (New York Times), “ravishing" (STRAD) performances and "passionate talent with beautiful poise" (AVS), violist **Molly Carr** enjoys a diverse musical career as recitalist, chamber musician, educator and artistic director. She has been the recipient of numerous international awards, including from the Primrose International Viola Competition, Chamber Music America, ProMusicis Foundation, and the Davidson Institute - and was honored in 2018 at the United Nations for her work with refugees around the globe through the *Novel Voices Refugee Aid Project*. Her performances have taken her across North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia and been featured in the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as on PBS, CNN, NPR, and BBC World News. Molly is the Founding Director of the award-winning organization *Project: Music Heals Us*, a non-profit which brings free chamber music performances and interactive programming to marginalized populations with limited ability to access the Arts themselves. She serves on the faculties of Bard College Conservatory of Music, The Juilliard School’s Precollege Division, and Musical Arts Madrid.

www.molly-carr.com

Bulgarian pianist, **Anna Petrova**, praised for her “artistic, clear and enlightened” performances (BBC Magazine), performs extensively as a soloist and chamber musician and is Assistant Professor of Piano at University of Louisville, Kentucky. She is a top prize winner of numerous international competitions, including the First Prize winner of the Jose Roca International Competition, Spain and a semi-finalist of the Queen Elizabeth Piano Competition. Recent highlights include her New York debut with conductor Philippe Entremont, a recording of Stravinsky’s *Les Noces* with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and conductor JoAnn Falletta (NAXOS, 2016), and solo and chamber music residencies in festivals across North America, Europe and China. Currently, she is working on a two-CD set of the complete piano sonatas of Russian composer, pianist and pedagogue, Samuil Feinberg for NAXOS. Petrova holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music and is the Artistic Director of Aberto Jonás International School of Music in Valencia, Spain.

www.anna-petrova.com