



Photo by Arthur Moeller available in high resolution at www.jensenartists.com/neave-trio

Neave Trio performs the Music of Astor Piazzolla with Carla Jablonski, mezzo-soprano

Presented by Friends of Music of Stamford NY

Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 3pm
Stamford United Methodist Church
88 Main Street | Stamford, NY

Suggested admission donations accepted at the door:
\$12 for adults / \$6 for seniors and students (cash or check)
Children under 13 are admitted free of charge.

“a delectable joyful surprise”
– *The Boston Musical Intelligencer*

Watch Neave Trio perform Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* at WGBH, Boston

www.neavetrio.com

Stamford, NY – On **Sunday, August 18, 2019** at **3pm**, the **Neave Trio** (Anna Williams, violin; Mikhail Veselov, cello; Eri Nakamura, piano) and mezzo-soprano **Carla Jablonski** are presented by **Friends of Music of Stamford NY** at Stamford United Methodist Church (88 Main Street). Together, Neave Trio and Carla Jablonski will perform music featured on their recent album, *Celebrating Piazzolla* (Azica Records) and Neave will also present Amy Beach's Piano Trio in A minor, Op. 150, to be released on their next album, *Her Voice* in September 2019 (Chandos Records). *Her Voice* also includes trios by Rebecca Clarke and Louise Farrenc.

In this concert, the Neave Trio captures Piazzolla's rich legacy through arrangements by one of Piazzolla's long time colleagues, **José Bragato** (*The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*) and by a younger protégé, **Leonardo Suárez Paz** (*Five Songs*). Mezzo-soprano **Carla Jablonski** joins the trio for the songs as well as an original work by Suárez Paz, *Milonga de Los Monsters*.

Piazzolla's original score for *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* matched his quintet: bandoneón, piano, guitar, bass, and violin. José Bragato, who worked with Piazzolla for many years and arranged many of his works, created this stylish version for piano trio, true to the Argentine tango spirit. In the tradition of tango spontaneity and flexibility, he takes liberties with textures, ornamentation, and other details of Piazzolla's themes. *Gramophone* describes their recording of *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* as “thrilling,” having “wild energy,” and “electrifying,” while *Classics Today* writes, “the energetic edginess, the snap, the rhythm sound convincing, totally invigorating, and authentic.”

“Bragato's wonderful arrangement provided a great canvas for us to improvise, adding colors and timbres,” says violinist Anna Williams. “All three of us wear many musical hats, emulating other sounds and instruments. Sometimes we provide percussion,” she continues. “At times, we were inspired by the sounds of bandoneón, accordion, guitar, viola, and double bass.”

From the inception of this project, the Neave Trio wanted to include some of Piazzolla's songs, because they are such an important component of his musical identity. They came up with a short list, then brought in Leonardo Suárez Paz to craft the arrangements. He is the son of violinist Fernando Suárez Paz, who played in Piazzolla's Quinteto Nuevo Tango from 1978-1988.

Leonardo thus grew up steeped in tango and the freedom that this genre permits to those who are fluent in its language. When he began work on the song arrangements for the Neave Trio, he looked for Piazzolla's original scores that his parents had retained at their home in Buenos Aires.

Suárez Paz observes, "Astor made an incredible number of arrangements of a few of his most celebrated compositions. Each one is like a new piece. He once said to me, 'When you grow up, in case you would like to play my compositions, recreate them.'" Suárez Paz took those words to heart. Each arrangement features a substantial instrumental introduction (and sometimes an instrumental interlude) that is a bold statement on its own: independent of Piazzolla, yet complementary, and inextricably linked to tango tradition.

Anna Williams and Carla Jablonski met during their time at the Manhattan School of Music. Jablonski has background in jazz vocals and contemporary music in addition to her classical training. She had also performed in Piazzolla's *Maria de Buenos Aires* with the Florida Grand Opera.

On selecting these songs, Jablonski says, "I was drawn to the tango genre because of its strong jazz influence and improvisatory elements. After discussing composers, languages, and genres, we agreed on a set of tango songs," she says. 'Yo Soy Maria' from Piazzolla's opera headed the list. The others were chosen by consensus: "This particular group of songs seemed to 'speak' to all of us," Jablonski observes.

About the Neave Trio: Since forming in 2010, Neave Trio – violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhail Veselov, and pianist Eri Nakamura – has earned enormous praise for its engaging, cutting-edge performances. *WQXR* explains, "'Neave' is actually a Gaelic name meaning 'bright' and 'radiant', both of which certainly apply to this trio's music making." *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* included Neave in its "Best of 2014" and "Best of 2016" roundups, claiming, "their unanimity, communication, variety of touch, and expressive sensibility rate first tier."

Neave has performed at many esteemed concert series and at festivals worldwide, including Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Smithsonian American Art Museum, 92nd Street Y, Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Norfolk and Norwich Chamber Music Series (United Kingdom), and the Samoylov and Rimsky Korsakow Museums' Chamber Music Series in St. Petersburg (Russia). The Trio has also appeared frequently as soloists for Beethoven's Triple Concerto with orchestras across the country and held residency positions at Brown University, University of Virginia, San Diego State University as the first ever Fisch/Axelrod Trio-in-Residence, and the Banff Centre (Canada), among many other institutions. Neave Trio was also in residence at the MIT School of Architecture and Design in collaboration with dancer/choreographer Richard Colton. In the fall of 2017, the Trio joined the faculty of the Longy School of Music of Bard College as Alumni Artists, Faculty Ensemble-in-Residence.

Neave Trio strives to champion new works by living composers and reach wider audiences through innovative concert presentations, regularly collaborating with artists of all mediums. These collaborations include performances with the Blythe Barton Dance Company; graphic programmer Andrew Ringler and media artist Bing Lin; the interactive concert series "STEIN2.0," with composer Amanuel Zarzowski; *Klee Musings* by acclaimed American composer Augusta Read Thomas, which was premiered by Neave; the premiere of Eric Nathan's *Missing Words V*, sponsored by Coretet; and a music video by filmmaker Amanda Alvarez Díaz of Astor Piazzolla's "Otoño Porteño."

In addition to *Her Voice* and *Celebrating Piazzolla*, Neave Trio's other recordings include *French Moments* (Chandos Records, 2018) featuring the only known piano trios by Debussy, Fauré, and Roussel, and the group's debut album, *American Moments* (Chandos Records, 2016), which includes works by Korngold, Foote, and Bernstein.

Highlights of Neave's 2019-20 season include concerts at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music, Brown University, Feldman Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Williamsburg, and the Boise Chamber Music Series, among many others. For more information, visit www.neavetrio.com.

About Carla Jablonski

Carla Jablonski's vocal versatility has captivated audiences on opera, concert and jazz stages across the globe. She has sung with The Metropolitan Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Wolf Trap, Heartbeat Opera, Opera Santa Barbara and Chautauqua to name a few. Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Jablonski made her Lincoln Center debut at Alice Tully Hall singing Five Songs by Charles Ives arranged for orchestra by John Adams, followed by her Carnegie Hall debut as the alto soloist in Handel's Messiah. She also has been a featured soloist with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, New York Festival of Song and Caramoor International Music Festival among others. She holds a Master of Music from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music from Manhattan School of Music and is a recipient of a Drama Desk Award.

About Friends of Music

Friends of Music offers a concert by an acclaimed ensemble on the third Sunday of every month. Performances are generously hosted by the Stamford United Methodist Church, which is handicap accessible and has ample parking. For more information about Friends of Music of Stamford NY, and for a complete listing of concerts planned for this season, visit www.friendsmusic.org.

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