



CONNECTIONS

One of the most beloved romantic piano trios, combined with two inspirations!

On 30 September, 1853, Robert Schumann wrote in his diary, 'Visit of Brahms. A genius!' This was a significant meeting between an ill and deteriorating Schumann and the young Brahms.

A sketch for Brahms' celebrated op. 8 trio was one of the first works he brought to Schumann. It is a youthful work, reworked much later, which combines the ardour of the young man with his mature mastery, and it has become one of the most celebrated and loved works of the piano trio repertoire, by both performers and audiences alike.

The history of the piano trio began a century earlier, with Joseph Haydn. It's difficult to imagine that the beautiful opening of the Brahms trio could come from anywhere except 'divine inspiration', but in fact the Op. 8 trio begins in exactly the same way as Haydn's E Major trio, written some sixty years previously! Whereas Haydn treats the melody with a very personal humour, Brahms uses this melody to begin a long cello solo.

Between love, humour, and a quasi-military march, the Fantasiestücke Op. 88 really showcases Schumann's genius sense of spontaneity. Short, contrasting movements transport us to the poetic atmosphere in which the young Brahms absorbed the influence of his mentor.

Trio opus 8 (1855/1891)

Johannes Brahms (1833 -1897)

Fantasiestücke opus 88 (1849)

Robert Schumann (1810 – 1856)

Trio n°44 Hob XV : 28 (1797)

Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)