Merz Trio believes in programming that is unexpected, fresh, and engaging, while also believing in working closely with presenters to ensure programming that will speak to their audiences.

Below are program offerings for our 23-24 season, and for dates when a specific sample program is unavailable, the Trio is happy to work closely with the presenter to create a suitable program to the best of their satisfaction.
Sample Program 1

"Root Music"
with Dvořák F Minor or Pejačević C Major
(65 - 75 minutes of music with intermission)

Merz Trio presents a wildly diverse program rooted in musical traditions spanning five continents. The selections are full of surprises and depth, ranging from entrancing simplicity to poignant beauty, exquisite color to pure fun. The program ends with a major romantic work by Czech composer Antonín Dvořák or Croatian composer Dora Pejačević (presenter’s choice).


Det syng (The enticement) from Haugtussa, Op. 67 (1895) Edvard Grieg (1867 - 1907)

A chantar mér de so q’ieu no voldria Comtessa de Dia (1140 - 1212)


Canción from Siete canciones populares Españolas (1914) Manuel de Falla (1876 - 1946)


Selections from Four Folk Songs (2012) Gabriela Lena Frank (b. 1972)

Fuga y misterio from "María de Buenos Aires" (1968) Astor Piazzolla (1921 - 1992)

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65 (1883) Antonín Dvořák (1841 - 1904)

OR

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major, Op. 29 (1910) Dora Pejačević (1885 - 1923)
Sample Program 2

"Songs and Episodes"
Schumann and Vasks
(65 minutes of music with intermission)

Merz Trio presents a program that explores the magic of the musical moment: music’s unique ability to take us completely outside ourselves while leaving us equally present in the here and now. How is this achieved in both longer and shorter form works? How does each of a series of short works by Clara Schumann seem to transport us to a completely different reality? And how do we experience longer form works conceived of as a series of short musical moments, in these longer trios of Pēteris Vasks and Robert Schumann? We encourage audiences to bring their own openness to “the musical moment” as they listen through this unique dialogue between unusual masterpieces.

Liebst du um Schönheit, Op. 12 No. 2 (1841)  Clara Schumann (1819 - 1896)
Er ist gekommen und Sturm und Regen, Op. 12 No. 1 (1841)  arr. Merz Trio
Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, Op. 16 No. 3 (1845)

Episodi e canto perpetuo (1985)  Pēteris Vasks (b. 1946)
  1. Crescendo
  2. Misterioso
  3. Unisoni
  4. Burlesca
  5. Monologhi
  6. Burlesca II
  7. Canto perpetuo
  8. Apogeo e Coda

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 2 in F Major, Op. 80 (1847)  Robert Schumann (1811 - 1856)
Sample Program 3*

The Complete Brahms Piano Trios
(83 minutes of music with intermission)

Hear the Merz Trio bring their "stunning virtuosity" and "evocative musicianship" to these cornerstones of the trio repertoire. Whether coming to these pieces for the first or fiftieth time, the Brahms Trios are an unparalleled experience for the listener in their beauty, emotional intensity, and depth of feeling. Together, all three works create a compellingly contrasting program and a rare opportunity to hear the pieces side by side.

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major, Op. 87 (1880-82)  
Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Piano Trio No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 101 (1886)  
Johannes Brahms

Intermission

Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8 (rev. 1889)  
Johannes Brahms

*As with all program offerings, Merz Trio is happy to customize the program for presenters who may be looking for a more traditional or Brahms-centric program but are unable to present the full Brahms cycle. For alternative pieces, please consult our full repertoire list.