

TRIO WANDERER FORCEFULLY DEFINE THEIR COLLECTIVE PURPOSE



Rodney Smith, *The Advertiser*

April 10, 2019 4:11pm

Subscriber only

They may wander globally, but Trio Wanderer certainly don't wander musically.

I've rarely heard a chamber group so forcefully define their collective purpose throughout a program and, what's more, with such fluency, unanimity and resolution.

Despite a stage presence which is best described as objective they bring immense energy and strength to everything they play.

And so it was perhaps Rachmaninov's brooding *Trio élégiaque in D minor* that made most impression, as they handled its symphonic proportions with utter focus, its vast tonal demands with impressive sonority and the dark despair at a certain distance for which many listeners might have been quite grateful.

It's such a pessimistic work.

In particular the lengthy middle movement achieved real poetic eloquence as both Raphaël Pidoux's cello and Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabédian's violin magically matched their sounds to achieve the widest thematic parabola from low to high.

For all their monolithic grandeur and tonal cohesion Trio Wanderer don't indulge in overly gentle sensitivity or the sugariness one often hears from chamber groups today.

While that was refreshing, Dvorak's *Dumky Trio Op 90* does need a degree of charm and elegance that from time to time went missing in their large-scale interpretation.

Similarly, theirs was definitely a big-hair reading of Haydn's *Trio in C Hob XV:21* which commanded our attention rather than inviting it.

Maybe Haydn would have liked that no-nonsense approach. Who's to say?

Trio Wanderer

UKARIA

April 7