

# Gould Piano Trio

## Review Excerpts

The excellent Gould Trio responds sensitively to the two works' [Brahms Piano Trios Nos. 1 & 2] different natures... These are very attractive performances...

*Gramophone*, February 2006

Lucy Gould and her colleagues play [Brahms] Op. 8's first movement suavely, with lovely tone and refined expression. The Gould Trio, with their lightness of touch, makes a special, slightly sinister effect in the quiet passages and, by this delicacy, enhances the explosive impact of the sudden fortés. Benjamin Frith's ringing tone and virtuoso panache make the most of the brilliant piano writing...

*Gramophone*, April 2005

Violinist Lucy Gould, cellist Alice Neary and pianist Benjamin Frith met its emotional demands with the highest commitment and deepest artistic insight, seamlessly moving through its shifting, conflicting states of feeling while revealing their complexities and nuances. they revealed the exposed, vulnerable heart of Brahms in the vernal simplicity of the third movement of his Piano Trio No. 3 in C minor.

Everywhere, they played with unanimity of impulse and aesthetic. In Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-flat, Opus 1, No. 1, which opened the program, they added impishness and urbane playfulness.

*LA Times*, March 2003

The Beethoven Trio in E flat (Op 1 No 1) was excellent: crystal clear, beautifully articulated. (The Smetana Trio in G minor Op 15) was nothing less than thrilling. So much emotion is generated within this small-scale work, some nationalistic and patriotic, some personal, stemming from the death of the composer's daughter at the age of five. But even in the tenderest moments, there is no self-indulgence, nor even melancholy, as evidenced by the fact that there is no slow movement. This was a performance of dynamism, passion and total empathy: with the music and with each other. In fact, I'd venture to say you'd be hard pressed to hear better.

*Music & Vision*, March 2003

Their ensemble is clear, bright and fresh, the ensemble playing quite faultless.

*Birmingham Post*, October 2002

Benjamin Frith's rippling piano and the finely toned strings of Lucy Gould and Alice Neary reveal why the Goulds are a top-line ensemble. Gould's violin can soar like a lark, with a sweetness of tone that is honey to the ear; Neary's spruce, articulated cello lines bring the bounce and propulsion of a jazz group.... scrumptiously performed.

*New Zealand Herald*, July 2002

Just gorgeous: Benjamin Frith's marvellously fluent piano, with the innocence of a music box at times, an ingénue tone from violin, while the sound of Alice Neary's cello seemed to float up from the floor, disembodied, without beginning or end.

*Wellington Evening Post*, June 2002

The Gould Trio (Lucy Gould, Alice Neary & Benjamin Frith) is of international calibre and its three players, each very individual, are adept at the give and take which is the essence of chamber music conversation, each knowing when to recede temporarily into an accompanying role.

*www.musicweb.uk.net*, May 2002

"Pure Gould...trio playing at its best"

*The Strad*, July 2001

