TRIO NICHE at CCA – ISLAND CONCERT STAGE
Saturday, November 21 at 7 pm

Trio Niche will be performing music by three esteemed Austrian composers: Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Johann Nepomuk Hummel.

Haydn's Piano Trio in E minor, Hob.XV:12, was specifically composed for the fortepiano and not the harpsichord as in his earlier piano trios. This "new" piano exhibited a broader dynamic range with an impressively larger harmonic scope. The trio opening in the key of E minor is deliberate with a dark atmospheric mood. The final two movements shift to the brighter key of E major exhibiting a lyrical slow movement and an exciting final movement with a grand display of humor and playful energy. Haydn's parallel writing of keys, as they shift from E minor to E major, is notably unusual.

Mozart's Piano Trio in E Major, K 542, is known as the Crowning Glory of his piano trios. This work was composed during his most creative period in the tumultuous later years of his life. It is also his only multi - movement composition in E major. The texture of this trio is dense, creating an almost symphonic sound throughout. Mozart's writing is at its most sophisticated with lyrical and expressive interweaving of the three instrumental parts.

Johann Hummel was Mozart's most prized piano student, and he also interacted with Joseph Haydn while at Esterházy. He was known as Europe's leading pianist for many years. Hummel's music bridges the gap between the Classical and Romantic periods and beautifully showcases the fortepiano. The Piano Trio No.3 in G major, Op.35, opens with an elegant first movement, transitions to a lively Viennese minuet for the second movement, and concludes with a romping finale. This Hummel trio features brilliant virtuosity, charm, and humor.