**LOS ANGELES PIANO TRIO**

**Fabio Bidini, piano; Margaret Batjer, violin; Andrew Shulman, cello**

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**Los Angeles Piano Trio** brings a new level of refinement, emotional depth and artistry to the piano trio repertoire, reflecting the City of Angels’ rich cultural legacy, global impact and vibrant energy. Venerated artists and long-time L.A. residents Fabio Bidini, piano, Margaret Batjer, violin, and Andrew Shulman, cello, founded the chamber ensemble in 2020, building upon their distinguished international careers as critically acclaimed soloists, chamber musicians, recording artists and pedagogues.

Finding great joy in playing together, which is palpable, the three like-minded musicians embrace the artistic freedom and warmth provided within the structure of the trio, enabling them to express their distinctive musical personalities while creating highly collaborative, inspiring chamber music performances. They present the core piano trio repertoire of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak and 20th Century gems by Shostakovich, Ravel and others, transporting audiences with their fresh, inventive interpretations, exceptional technical prowess and abiding musical passion. Additionally, they plan to introduce new and seldom-played works in seasons to come, mirroring LA’s own diverse arts scene, which, rooted in tradition, also sets trends around the globe.

For Bidini, Batjer and Shulman, who have performed together in various duo and ensemble combinations over the years, this project comes at the optimum time in their careers with each infusing **Los Angeles Piano Trio** with decades of wide-ranging musical experience at the highest echelon, for which they have garnered tremendous accolades.

Critics proclaim **Fabio Bidini**, a finalist in the 1993 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, a “keyboard wizard (with) a beautiful tone” (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*) “capable of an admirable simplicity…truly touching” (*The New York Times*). The Italian-born musician, who plays with “the rigor of a poet and the flair of a magician” (*Los Angeles Times*), is considered among the world’s leading concert pianists and pedagogues. Bidini made his North American debut with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and has been a frequent guest of the San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and BBC Orchestra Wales, among many others. Also in demand as a chamber music partner, he has enjoyed artistic collaborations with the American String Quartet, the Janacek Quartet, the Brodsky Quartet, the Szymanowski Quartet, the Modigliani Quartet, Zoltan Kocsis, Nikolaj Znaider, Johannes Moser, Paula Robison, Wendy Warner, Eva Urbanova, Nina Kotova, Maria Bachmann, Dimitri Ashkenazy, Eva Mie, Alexis-Pia Gerlach and others. Bidini, hailed as “a master of the master class…one of the most intense teachers in classical music” (*Los Angeles Times*), formerly held the piano chair at the Berlin Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik and, in 2015, was named the first Carol Grigor Piano Chair at the Colburn Music Academy in Los Angeles and appointed as a Professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne, Germany.

**Margaret Batjer**, lauded for her “gleaming warmth” (*Los Angeles Times*), “high-flying” performances and ability to make “her instrument purr and soar…with an engrossing combination of intensity and technical fluency” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), is “downright exciting to watch and hear” (*Violinist.com*). She has served as Concertmaster of Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra since 1998, which has featured her on numerous world premieres and CDs, including a Deutsche Grammophon recording of Bach’s Concerto for Two Violins with violinist Hilary Hahn. Since her solo debut at age 15 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with which she has subsequently performed numerous times, Batjer has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, New York String Orchestra, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Berlin Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of Europe, among others. The esteemed chamber artist has long been affiliated with the Marlboro Music Festival and Italy’s Naples and Cremona festivals, and has played with cellists Yo-Yo Ma and David Finckel, pianists Peter Serkin, Maurizio Pollini, Radu Lupu and Jeffrey Kahaneand mandolin virtuoso Chris Thile. As a member of the Quartetto Accardo from 1984 to 2000, Batjer recorded and toured extensively, appearing at La Scala, Carnegie Hall, the Salzburg Festival and elsewhere. She serves on the violin faculty at both USC Thornton School of Music and Colburn Music Academy.

**Andrew Shulman** draws praise for his “fastidious poetry of phrase and technique” (*The Times, London*) and “nuanced and impassioned” performances (*Salt Lake Tribune*). His distinctive sound is “stunning… brilliantly powerful (with a) burnished tone creating a confiding expressiveness…always eloquent and passionate” (*Los Angeles Times).* Appointed Principal Cello of Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in 2008, the London-born musician served as Principal Cello of the Philharmonia Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic. His extensive solo career includes performing the major cello concertos with such leading orchestras as Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Singapore Symphony, working with Sir Simon Rattle, Esa Pekka Salonen and Franz Welser-Most. He has also appeared in solo recitals at Buckingham Palace, the Royal Palace in Stockholm, the Wigmore Hall and the Musikverein, Vienna, as well as the Edinburgh, Aspen and La Jolla Summer Festivals. A faculty member at USC Thornton School of Music, Shulman is featured on 40 solo and chamber recordings, including 26 with the Britten Quartet. Appointed an Honorary Fellow of The Royal College of Music by the Queen Mother in 1986, he is the first British musician to win the New England Conservatory’s prestigious Piatigorsky Artist Award. He is also a successful conductor, appearing frequently in the USA, Europe and Scandinavia.