**LOS ANGELES PIANO TRIO**

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

*(Please do not make any edits without the express permission of the artists)*

**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. Also in demand as a chamber music partner, he 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*). The esteemed chamber artist has served as Concertmaster of Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra since 1998, was a member of the Quartetto Accardo from 1984 to 2000 and has long been affiliated with the Marlboro Music Festival and other renowned chamber music festivals. 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 was Principal Cello of the Philharmonia Orchestra, ASMF and Los Angeles Philharmonic and enjoys a busy schedule of solo, chamber music and recording engagements. Shulman serves on the USC Thornton School of Music cello faculty.