Syracuse University
Hendricks Chapel

Malmgren Concert Series

presents

Merz Trio

Sunday, October 25, 2026
4 p.m.

We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation,
Firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee,
the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands
Syracuse University now stands.

PROGRAM

Welcome: Corey MacPherson, Dean of Hendricks Chapel

Pages from Clara's *Blumentagebuch*

Zwölf Gedichte aus F. Rückerts Liebesfrühling von Robert und Clara Schumann, Op. 12/37 (1841)
4. Liebst du um Schönheit — Clara Schumann (1819-1896) (arr. Merz Trio)

"Die Blumensprache," D. 519 — Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828) (arr. Merz Trio)

Sonatensatz (2022) — Loren Loiacono (b. 1989)

Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 97 'Archduke' — Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

I. Allegro moderato
II. Scherzo - Allegro
III. Andante cantabile, ma pero con moto
IV. Allegro moderato. Presto

Merz Trio
Isabelle Durrenberger, Violin
Julia Yang, Cello
Amy Yang, Piano

This program traces the steps of Clara Wieck Schumann, from 1857-1859, by way of flowers. It reflects sentiments from her *Blumentagebuch*—her diary of pressed flowers—in which Clara left dedications to meaningful people and moments in her life. Each flower or plant carries a set of meanings, both public, according to the practice of floriography in nineteenth-century Germany, and private, with associated memories and emotions. This precious book accompanied her as she toured throughout Europe and served as a record of friendship, mourning and memory. Moving amongst Clara's floral meditations, we explore floriography in its romantic heyday and delight in the coded and the unspoken. With Clara, we visit Robert, as well as Beethoven and Schubert, and bring in a musical friend of our own, Loren Loiacono (b. 1989).

In a page dedicated to Robert, Clara dried ivy from his gravesite, a symbol of love and faithfulness. Our program begins with a set of their early songs: the first, a love song by Clara, is drawn from a shared song cycle of Lieder written together by Robert and Clara. We turn next to Schubert's Lied, which revels in the poignancy of this hidden language of flowers. In Loiacono's *Sonatensatz*, a work written for Merz in 2022, she employs her own *Blumensprache,* drawing inspiration for the work from the passionate wildness of Robert Schumann's trios. The program concludes with a celebration of friendship: Beethoven embodies these ideals in his at times noble, playful and transcendent work dedicated to his great friend, Archduke Rudolph.

Malmgren concerts are presented with support from the Malmgren Fund.

About Merz Trio

Hailed as “entrancing” (BBC Music Magazine) and "artists in the deepest sense of the word" (CutCommon), Merz Trio, winners of the Naumburg, Concert Artists Guild, Fischoff and Chesapeake Competitions, and recipients of a Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant, have been lauded for their “stunning virtuosity… fresh and surprising interpretations” (Reading Eagle), and “perfection of intonation and ensemble” (Hudson Review). Merz Trio are passionately committed to reshaping the narrative of classical music through vibrantly dynamic programming and wide-ranging interdisciplinary collaboration. Their narrative programming style juxtaposes classical standards, new music, and their own arrangements of familiar and forgotten works, fluidly interwoven and guided with speaking from the Trio’s members. Their interdisciplinary collaborations include ongoing projects with directors Emma Jaster and Jon Levin, dancer Caroline Copeland, and Sandglass Puppet Theater.

The Trio are equally known for their more immersive integrations of music and text in performance, ranging from their recital-theater piece built around Shakespeare’s Macbeth (“Those Secret Eyes”), to their debut album interweaving Ravel’s Trio with short pieces, poems, and diaries of the era (“Ink”). Finally, in their prolific arranging, the Trio are committed to uplifting overlooked voices from history, ranging from Hildegard von Bingen to Lili and Nadia Boulanger, from Joséphine Baker to Irish folk melodies.

Highlights of the Merz Trio’s 26-27 includes performances at Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, Chamber Music Wilmington, Friends of Chamber Music in Troy (NY), Palm Beach State College, the Polinger Artists of Excellence Series, Richmond’s Belvedere Series, Syracuse University, and Westchester Chamber Music Society. Last season, they returned to cherished series including Chamber Music Houston, Chamber Music Louisville and Pro Musica (San Miguel, Mexico). Other recent appearances include Tippet Rise, Duke Performances, Chamber Music Dallas, Da Camera, Coleman Chamber Music Association, the New Orleans Friends of Music and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Other notable debuts have taken the Trio to Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Schubert Club (St. Paul, MN), among others. Merz Trio have been encouraged in their explorations by numerous institutional homes around the world: New England Conservatory, Yellow Barn, Snape Maltings, Avaloch Farm Institute, the Naumburg Foundation, the Lake Champlain, Olympic, and Chesapeake Music Festivals, and the Fischoff Competition, as well as many other venues and hosts around the US, Australia, the Netherlands and the UK.

Merz Trio operate as a nonprofit organization under Project Merz, Inc. and are currently represented by Dinin Arts Management & Consulting.

The Malmgren Concert Series of Hendricks Chapel
Sundays at 4:00 p.m. in Hendricks Chapel

Join us for music to stir the soul and ignite the spirit as we welcome renowned musicians to the stage of Hendricks Chapel in the heart of Syracuse University! All at 4 p.m. – free and open to the public.

November 15 - We Hold These Truths
A choral celebration of America's 250th anniversary with Ensemble Sonora and area choirs.
Co-sponsored by Syracuse Symposium's Series, "Dreams."

February 21 - Black History Month Concert
Setnor choirs and student soloists highlight music of Black composers.

March 21 - Fourth Wall Ensemble and Emmy Award-winning composer Jeff Beal
This acclaimed contemporary vocal group performs Beal's Beatitudes and The Paper-Lined Shack.
Co-sponsored by Kathleen Roland-Silverstein and Merril Silverstein.

Saturday, April 17 at 4 p.m.* - Hans Davidsson on the Harrold Organ at the SU Catholic Center
***Note date change**
Experience Syracuse's newest organ played by one of the world's finest organists.
Part of the Syracuse Pipe Organ Festival.

April 25 - Hendricks Chapel Choir Spring Concert
A favorite annual campus concert featuring diverse and uplifting choral music.

Please join us for these additional special music events hosted by Hendricks Chapel:

Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 9:00 p.m. - Halloween at Hendricks
Join the SU Organ Club, student organists, and the Hendricks Chapel Choir for this fun and informal Halloween concert featuring a medley from Wicked, movie scores, and the iconic Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. Costumes are encouraged but optional!

Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. – Holidays at Hendricks
Sign up to receive news from Hendricks Chapel at chapel.syracuse.edu to receive announcements about tickets for this event.

Sunday, January 31, 2027, at 4:00 p.m. – Let's Sing!
Community hymn and anthem sing with the Hendricks Chapel Choir

For more information, visit chapel.syracuse.edu.