

THE BOSTON TRIO

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The salon elegance of the music room at the charming Seven Hills Inn in Lenox is the venue for the Stockbridge Summer Music Series. On 6 August the excellent Boston Trio, resident ensemble at the New England Conservatory, demonstrated remarkable versatility. Despite the room's very bright acoustics, these three terrific musicians delivered exciting, technically adept performances. Clarinetist Benjamin Seltzer joined two of the group's members for Beethoven's Trio in B flat major, Op 11. Best known as a piano-violin-cello piece, the clarinet version (in place of the violin) is an intriguing variant. Seltzer's warmly resonant tone and superb dexterity were riveting. Cellist Alison Eldredge, an outstanding soloist in her own right, phrased the glorious second movement theme eloquently. Pianist Heng-Jin Park's strong rhythmic sense was on vivid display in the vivacious Tema con Variazioni.

In three movements from Astor Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires, Irina Muresanu's impassioned violin and rhapsodic sweep captured the music's blazing energy. She beautifully delineated the Baroque cadence of the conclusion of the Winter section. Dvorák's Piano Trio in F minor Op 65 is Brahmsian romanticism with a nod to the Czech composer's nationalistic mode. The Boston Trio gave this gorgeous work a superb performance. A hyper intense *Allegro ma non troppo* was succeeded by the aristocratically spun, folksy charms of the *Allegro grazioso*. The players brought heavenly serenity to the *Poco adagio*, the score's heart and soul. But the best came last. The *Allegro con brio* was delivered with exhilarating vigor; the playing absolutely terrific. What a superlative conclusion to a rousing evening! In the Berkshires, the hills are indeed alive with the sound of music.

