

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



LUNCHTIME RECITAL

FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

The Sokolowski Trio



PROGRAMME

Piano Trio in D minor, Opus 32

Anton Arensky (1861-1906)

i. Allegro moderato

ii. Scherzo: Allegro molto

iii. Elegia: Adagio

iv. Finale: Allegro non troppo

The Sokolowski Trio have been playing together for nine years and have given concerts in various venues in Suffolk and Essex, including St Edmundsbury Cathedral and St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich. Rachel and Janet live in Bury St Edmunds and Christopher now lives in Clare.

Rachel studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and is busy as a teacher and performer. She and Janet also play in various other ensembles including the Giotto String Quartet, Lavenham Sinfonia and Churchgate Sinfonia.

Janet read Music at Oxford University and is also a busy teacher as well as a performer. She regularly writes reviews for The Strad magazine.

Christopher plays the organ and harpsichord in addition to the piano. He studied at Durham University and has held teaching and church appointments in the UK and South Africa.

Arensky's piano trio, which he wrote in 1894, is one of his few works still widely performed today. He dedicated it to the memory of the cellist Karl Davidov – paying particular tribute to him in the muted cello tune of the Elegia third movement.

A disciple of Tchaikovsky, Arensky wrote in a fairly conservative style for the time. The first movement of the trio is in sonata form with three themes, the first of which is introduced by the violin over a rocking piano accompaniment.

A very skittish Scherzo follows, with violin and cello using ricochet bowing and pizzicato. Before the reprise of the Scherzo there is a very full-blown, Romantic waltz in B flat major.

In the Elegy, the sombre theme is played muted first by cello then by violin, with the piano next bringing respite in a more hopeful, heavenward-looking central section over hushed string triplets.

The Finale starts as it means to go on, with drama - punchy chords and semiquavers. Later Arensky brings the work full circle in a reflective passage with reminders of the Elegy's ethereal middle section, this time played by the strings, and the initial theme of the first movement, before coming to a sizzling conclusion.

The next recital is on Friday 7 October - Musicians from
Culford School