

# PERLMAN SCHMIDT BAILEY TRIO

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*The Washington Post*

Thursday, March 31, 2005

A Chamber Series Home Run

By Joseph McLellan

It would be hard to imagine a more satisfying chamber music program than the one played Tuesday evening in the Abe Fortas Chamber Music Series at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater: Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio in B-flat, Op. 97, and Brahms's Trio in B, Op.8, the first chamber composition that intensely self-critical artist allowed to survive.

The performers were pianist Navah Perlman, violinist Giora Schmidt and cellist Zuill Bailey, three young musicians who play with a precise coordination that sounds like the result of working together for many years.

Beethoven and Brahms were both pianists, and their music gave Perlman repeated opportunities to glitter. She recognized and fulfilled these chances, notably in the first movement and scherzo of the "Archduke," but never at the expense of submerging her partners. The pianist in a trio has to be especially restrained, playing an instrument of orchestral power. Perlman was a model of consideration, supporting every note of the violin and cello and letting them sing out sweetly and clearly.

Schmidt and Bailey were precise in intonation, imaginative in phrasing and perfectly together with each other and with the piano. This ensemble seems headed for a bright future.

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