

**Aram Khachaturian** (1903-1978) *Trio for clarinet, violin & piano in G* (1932)

*Andante con dolore*

*Allegro*

*Moderato, Prestissimo*

Aram Khachaturian was born in Tbilisi, Georgia into a poor Armenian family. He began to study music after moving to Moscow in 1920 to join his brother who was a Stage Director. He showed great musical talent and studied cello, composition and orchestration at the Gnessin Institute and from 1929 at the Moscow Conservatoire where he became professor in 1951. Although recognised worldwide as one of the leading soviet composers, and having taken on various official roles he was condemned, along with Shostakovich, Prokofiev and others, in the Zhdanov decree of 1948 for being formalist and anti-popular. This mortifying condemnation had a profound effect on him, but fortunately he soon returned to official favour. He is best known for the brilliant orchestration of his symphonic and ballet music (such as the well-known Sabre Dance from *Gayane*), incidental music and film scores. His only chamber music, a string quartet and tonight's trio, were written in the early 1930s when a student at the Moscow Conservatoire.