

Program note by Chris Darwin: use freely for non-commercial purposes

Sven-David Sandström (b. 1942) Four Pieces (2012)

Sven-David Sandström is a prolific, eclectic and influential Swedish composer. He studied composition under Ligeti and Per Norgård in Stockholm and later taught composition at the University of Stockholm and Indiana University. He has composed over 300 works, ranging from orchestral through choral and opera to chamber music. His early work was adventurous, experimenting with quarter-tones. He made his name with a large scale orchestral work *Through and through* (1972), performed by the Concertgebouw Orchestra, and received a further accolade when Pierre Boulez conducted his difficult 1975 orchestral work *Utmost* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

In the 1980s he changed to a more tonal and modal style, and predominantly wrote vocal music. His Requiem Mass *The totally forgotten* written in 1982 about holocaust infanticide was particularly successful. He has since undertaken large-scale vocal projects in homage to Bach. But he has also continued to write instrumental music including neo-romantic concertos, string quartets and works for piano trio dedicated to the Trio con Brio Copenhagen, who will introduce tonight's '*Four pieces*'.

The work is based on '*Six pieces for piano trio and orchestra*' which Sandström wrote for the Trio in 2011. Of the premier of '*Four pieces*' in Copenhagen, the reviewer for the *Kristeligt Dagblad* commented:

"Lasting about fifteen minutes, the four pieces are a wonderful mix of tight Nordic minimalism in the style of his settings of Tomas Tranströmer's poems ("Nordic Mass") and crystalline layerings of sound colours and rhythm. It was evident that Trio con Brio has a special feeling for this music."