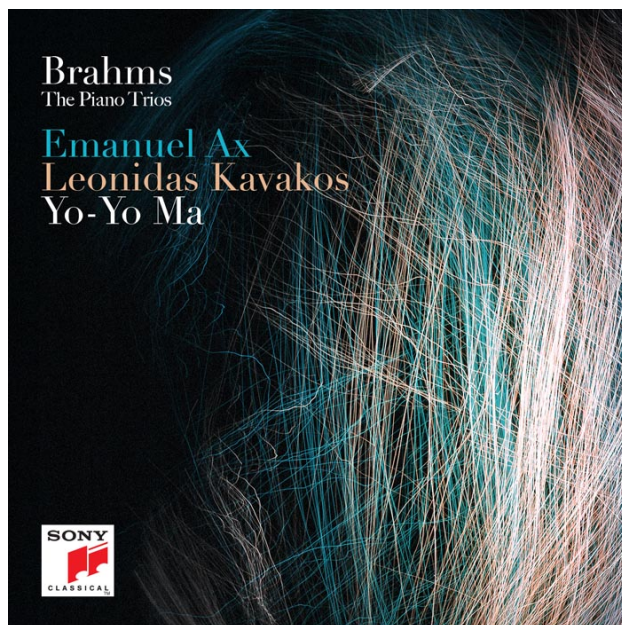




**EMANUEL AX, LEONIDAS KAVAKOS AND YO-YO MA
IN FIRST RECORDING TOGETHER:
THE COMPLETE PIANO TRIOS OF BRAHMS**



**Ax, Kavakos and Ma to Perform All Three Brahms Piano Trios
Throughout the US During the 2018 Concert Season**

Recording Available September 15, 2017, on Sony Classical

Cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** and his longtime collaborator, pianist **Emanuel Ax**, are joined by violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** in their first recording together for Sony Classical, of the piano trios of Johannes Brahms. Ax and Ma have collaborated in a distinguished catalog of Brahms recordings for Sony Classical, but this is their first recording together of the Piano Trios – and their first collaboration with Kavakos. Sony Classical will release the recording of ***Brahms: The Piano Trios*** on September 15, 2017.

During the 2018 concert season, Ax, Kavakos and Ma will reunite for a series of US performances of all three of the Brahms Trios heard on the new recording – Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8; Trio No. 2 in C Major, Op. 87; and Trio No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 101.

The Second and Third Trios were written and first performed in quick succession (1882 and 1883), both examples of Brahms at his creative zenith. The same can be said of the First Trio: originally completed when he was twenty, in 1854, and premiered the following year, Brahms thoroughly rethought and revised it in a new version premiered early in 1890. That more elegant and concentrated version of a youthful work has become the standard for the First Trio, and it is the version performed on the recording by Ax, Kavakos, and Ma.

For Ma, who believes Brahms wrote “really difficult music to play well,” the collaboration with an old friend (Ax) and their new colleague (Kavakos) was an extraordinary experience. “What I was impressed by was that we could listen to a take and each one of us would make comments, but there was never a disagreement. We actually added these elements together, and it became a better performance. That was unusual. That doesn’t happen often with three people, whether they know one another or not.”

“From the very first note we ever played, Emanuel Ax, Yo-Yo Ma and I felt a priceless blessing,” Kavakos says, recalling how their collaboration began. “After playing just the Op. 8 Trio in Tanglewood, the urge to repeat and expand was immediate. Performing all the trios was the next step, from which the idea of this recording was born. It has been an experience full of musical joy. It is my hope that listeners will join us in experiencing all this and more, in what has been an absolutely amazing musical and human journey.”

Emanuel Ax speaks of his own passion for the music of Brahms and the Piano Trios. “To be able to work on these masterpieces again with my friends Leonidas and Yo-Yo is a great privilege,” Ax said. “The glory of such musical masterpieces is that no one performance can exhaust everything in them. It is because of the infinite depth and variety of Brahms’s genius that we hope to be part of the long tradition of this wonderful music.”

All three performers have been acclaimed for their interpretations of Brahms, as soloists and as colleagues. Between them, Ax and Ma have shared four Grammy Awards for their recordings of Brahms’s chamber music. With Kavakos, they first performed all three Brahms Piano Trios at the Tanglewood Festival in 2015. They will repeat the program in US concerts during the 2018 season.

Sony Music Masterworks comprises Masterworks, Sony Classical, OKeh, Portrait and Masterworks Broadway imprints. For email updates and information please visit www.sonymusicmasterworks.com/

###

Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos Yo-Yo Ma

Brahms: The Piano Trios

Release Date: September 15, 2017

Tracklisting:

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major, Opus 87

- 1 Allegro
- 2 Andante con moto
- 3 Scherzo: Presto
- 4 Finale: Allegro giocoso

Piano Trio No. 3 in C Minor, Opus 101

- 1 Allegro energico
- 2 Presto non assai
- 3 Andante grazioso
- 4 Allegro molto

Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Opus 8

- 5 Allegro con brio
- 6 Scherzo: Allegro molto
- 7 Adagio
- 8 Finale: Allegro

Concert Dates with Brahms Repertoire:

Wednesday, Feb 21, 2018	Symphony Hall – Boston, MA
Thursday, Feb 22, 2018	Carnegie Hall - Stern Auditorium, NYC
Friday, Feb 23, 2018	Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Washington, DC
Sunday, Feb 25, 2018	Symphony Center – Chicago, IL
Monday, Feb 26, 2018	Cobb Great Hall, Michigan State - East Lansing, MI
Wednesday, Feb 28, 2018	Zellerbach Hall - Berkeley, CA
Thursday, Mar 1, 2018	Bing Concert Hall – Palo Alto, CA
Saturday, Mar 3, 2018	Copley Symphony Hall – San Diego, CA
Sunday, Mar 4, 2018	Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA

ALBUM PREORDER LINKS

Amazon Physical

<http://smarturl.it/YoYo-BrahmsTrio-cd>

Amazon Digital

<http://smarturl.it/YoYo-BrahmsTrio-ad>

iTunes

<http://smarturl.it/YoYo-BrahmsTrio>

For More Info on Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, and Yo-Yo Ma, see below.

EMANUEL AX

Website: <http://emanuelax.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EmanuelAx>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EAxpiano/>

LEONIDAS KAVAKOS

Website: <http://www.leonidaskavakos.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leonidas.kavakos.violin>

YO-YO MA

Website: <http://www.yo-yoma.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YoYoMa>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/yoyo_ma

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/YoYoMaVEVO>