

TRIO ELECTRUM

Piano Trio

Vilmos Csikos (violin) - Pierre Fontenelle (cello) - Marco Mantovani (piano)



The Brussels-based Trio Electrum brings together three European musicians—the violinist Vilmos Csikos, the cellist Pierre Fontenelle, and the pianist Marco Mantovani — around a shared musical vision.

Their programmes are distinguished by a strong sense of originality, bringing recognised masterworks by Mozart, Brahms, Schumann and Shostakovich into dialogue with contemporary voices such as Arvo Pärt and Indian-American composer Reena Esmail.

Building on the success of Csikos and Mantovani's duo tour in China in the summer of 2025, the trio combines diverse musical backgrounds with the energy of a new generation to create concerts that are both intimate and vibrant. In 2026, he performed at the Concerts de Midi in Liège, as part of the Festival de l'Été Mosan, on a tour organized by Musica and Poetica...

"An alluring blend of youthful spontaneity and aesthetic maturity." – ResMusica)



Marco Mantovani

The Italo-Belgian pianist Marco Mantovani maintains a busy concert schedule that regularly takes him to stages across Europe and around the world, performing in recitals, with orchestras, and in chamber music ensembles. Trained in Mantua, then in Fiesole with Andrea Lucchesini and at the Koninklijk Conservatorium in Brussels with Aleksandar Madžar, he has performed at venues such as Bozar and Flagey in Brussels, La Fenice in Venice, the Teatro Regio in Parma, La Pergola in Florence, the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, the Oriental Art Center in Shanghai, and the Casa da Música in Porto.

He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Arts, awarded jointly by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, and his dissertation focused on the pianistic world of Robert Schumann. Between 2022 and 2024, he recorded three critically acclaimed albums dedicated to the German composer's piano works for Etcetera Records. His latest album, **On the Shoulders of Giants**, received a Supersonic Award and was nominated for the International Classical Music Awards (ICMA) in 2025.

Since 2019, Marco Mantovani has been an assistant in the piano classes at the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, where he collaborates with Aleksandar Madzar, Boyan Vodenitcharov, Jan Michiels, and Piet Kuijken.

"From the very first day, I discovered someone with great talent and wonderful musicality, eager to understand music on a deep level."

(Maria João Pires)



Vilmos Csikos

Vilmos Csikos studied violin with Yossif Ivanov at the Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel, from which he graduated in 2019 with the highest honors. A winner of numerous competitions from a young age, he took first prize at the Andrea Postacchini, Remember Enescu, and Arthur Grumiaux competitions, before also winning the Young Belgian Talent Award and first prize at the Leonid Kogan International Violin Competition. In 2020, he won the prestigious Vieuxtemps Prize (the year marking the bicentennial of the composer's birth), and in 2026, he won the prestigious Ysaÿe Prize in South Korea.

He performs regularly throughout Europe and at leading festivals such as B-Classic, Musicorum, Midis-Minimes, and l'Été Mosan. As a soloist, he has performed with numerous orchestras under the baton of conductors such as Nicolas Pasquet, Gábor Werner, Junichi Hirokami, and Junghyun James Cho. In October 2026, he will tour with the Ataneres Ensemble to perform Bach's Double Concerto.

"The Électrum Trio displays a noble and generous lyricism: Vilmos Csikos's violin, with its almost Gypsy-like flourishes, blends beautifully with the rounded tone of Pierre Fontenelle's cello and Marco Mantovani's lively yet always balanced playing." (ResMusica)



Pierre Fontenelle

Pierre Fontenelle is a Belgian-American cellist whose playing has been praised for its “powerful yet gentle voice” (La Libre) and for “his passionate spirit and poetry” (Musiq’3). A prize winner at the Breughel (2022), the Buchet Competition (2020), and the Edmond Baert Competition (2019), he served as principal cellist at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège until 2022. He now performs on international stages, notably at Flagey, La Seine Musicale, the Taipei National Concert Hall, and the Shanghai Oriental Art Center.

Honored with the 2024 FUGA Trophy for his contribution to Belgian music, he is artist-in-residence at the Trifolion Echternach and an associate artist of the Dinard International Music Festival. A passionate chamber musician and curious explorer of contemporary and transdisciplinary projects with his Duo Kiasma, Fontenelle teaches at IMEP and plays an 1860 Nicolas-François Vuillaume cello, generously loaned to him by the King Baudouin Foundation, as well as a 1690 Ruggieri.

His debut album, **Roots**, was released by Cypres in 2024 and pays tribute to American contemporary music. With his Duo Kiasma, he released **Polaris** in September 2026. A third album, *Être*, is scheduled for release in the spring of 2027 and will be dedicated to Belgian contemporary music.

“An artist of profound originality, (...) with a powerful yet gentle voice” (La Libre)



Video

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Review

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Programs

Dmitri Shostakovich: Trio No.1 op. 8
Reena Esmail: Saans (Breath), 2017
Robert Schumann: Trio No. 3 op. 110

W. A. Mozart: Piano Trio No. 4 (K. 542)
A. Pärt: Mozart-Adagio
Dmitri Schostakovich: Trio No. 2 op. 67

L. van Beethoven: Trio "Ghost" No. 5,
op. 70 n. 1
Johannes Brahms: Trio No.1 op. 8

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