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## Marshall University Music Department Presents A Tour Around the World: HAMBURG, Elizabeth Reed Smith, violin, Stephen Lawson, horn, Henning Vauth, piano

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# SCHOOL of MUSIC & THEATRE

presents

# A Tour Around the World: HAMBURG

## Elizabeth Reed Smith, violin Stephen Lawson, horn Henning Vauth, piano

Thursday, May 1, 2014
Woodlands Retirement Community
4:00 p.m.

This program is presented by the College of Arts and Media through the School of Music, with the support of student activity funds. For more information about this or other music events, please call (304) 696-3117, or view our website at www.marshall.edu/cofa/music.

### Program

## Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

I. Allegro

II. Adagio

III. Un poco presto e con sentimento

IV. Presto agitato

## Horn Trio in Eb Major, Op. 40 Johannes Brahms

I. Andante

II. Scherzo: Allegro

III. Adagio mesto

IV. Allegro con brio

### **Program Notes**

Although Johannes Brahms spent much of his professional life from age 29 in Vienna, Austria he was born in Hamburg, Germany, and received his musical training there. His hometown still celebrates his music and accomplishments by supporting a Johannes Brahms Museum.

Brahms composed his third Violin Sonata during two vacations on Lake Thun in Switzerland. In 1886 he had just finished his Fourth Symphony; after beginning the sonata he put it aside to compose the Double Concerto for Violin and Cello, complaining that writing for stringed instruments should be left to "someone who understands fiddles better than I." But he returned to the sonata and completed it in 1888. It was dedicated to his friend the conductor and pianist Hans von Bülow. The Hungarian violinist Jenö Hubay gave the first performance with Brahms at the piano.

The sonata differs from the first two sonatas in its fourmovement design, its lean and concise structure and its dramatic, virtuosic nature.

The Horn Trio was conceived in 1865 during a vacation to Baden-Baden as a memorial to Brahms' recently deceased mother, Christiane. The third movement quotes a folksong, "Dort in den Weiden steht ein Haus," which Brahms had learned from his mother.

Brahms' father was a professional horn player, and Brahms learned horn as a boy. He was not a fan of the new valve horn, probably because it had not yet been perfected, and even referred to it as the "brass viola." Brahms wrote the Trio for the sonority of the natural horn.

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