

## String Trio in B flat D 471

Franz Schubert  
(1653-1713)

*Allegro*

Schubert wrote this as the first of three movements, but apart from part of an *andante* he never got round to writing the others. He was nineteen and not long out of the seminary to which his father had sent him, without the slightest intention of his son's embarking on a musical career. But Franz has caught the attention, and then the tutelage, of Salieri, the court musical director, and his father's hopes that he would settle down to a life as a schoolmaster were not to be realised. In any case the out-of-hours activities of this reluctant, and by all accounts not very competent, schoolmaster were entirely musical, and with a group of his friends he had instituted musical gatherings in what came to be known as Schubertiades. Perhaps this piece was written to be exposed in such a setting. Why it survived one cannot tell - perhaps Salieri liked it - but its qualities show what a mature composer the teenage Schubert was. And, in leaving it tantalisingly unfinished, as it is, what a tease.