

The **Merling Trio**, (**Susan Wiersma Uchimura**, piano; **Renata Artman Knific**, violin; and **Bruce Uchimura**, violoncello) is recognized as one of today's premier ensembles. A truly international trio, it brings together musicians from Polish, Japanese, and Dutch backgrounds. The Merling Trio has been hailed as a brilliantly distinguished group endowed with remarkable gifts of communication, magnificent precision, and an impeccable blend of sound. The trio made its New York debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 1993, and was named a finalist for the Naumburg Foundation Chamber Music Award in 1994. They are currently in residence at the School of Music at Western Michigan University.

The Merling Trio has released a number of critically-acclaimed recordings. *Piano Trio Classics* included works by Haydn, Mozart, Brahms, Schumann, and Liszt and was released by Pamplin Records in 2001. About Centaur Records' 2006 release of the trio's recording of works by Piazzolla and Proto, the American Record Guide said, "The Merlings play with a properly stylistic balance between abandon and control. This is an unusual and beautifully played program." 2013's *Postcards in E* features works of Shostakovich and Dvorak, and was issued on the MSR Classics label to rave reviews. Most recently, *The Merling Trio Performs the Great American Songbook*, released in 2017, features the greatest composers of the genre, such as Duke Ellington, Henry Mancini, Burt Bacharach, and Harold Arlen, in brilliant arrangements by Gene Knific.

The Merling Trio takes its name from the Danish violin maker, Paul Merling. Currently, Mr. Uchimura performs on an Enrico Marchetti cello, made in Turin, Italy, in 1899. Ms. Knific's violin, fashioned by Vincenzo Postiglione in Naples, Italy, dates from 1898.