

## Amersham Concert Club's 55<sup>th</sup> Season

### Drama and Passion from the Mithras Trio

Ionel Manciu – violin, Leo Popplewell – cello, Dominic Degavino – piano

The award -winning Mithras Trio began their recital with Haydn's Piano Trio in G Major, HobXV:41. This was one of Haydn's earliest Trios (possibly composed as early as 1760) and therefore one of the very first piano trios to be composed but what a starting point. The Trio played with delicacy and clarity and the interaction and understanding between the three musicians was wonderful.

The contrast with the next work, Faure's Trio in D minor could not have been greater. The Trio was completed in 1923 when he was 78 and probably completely deaf. It is a dramatic and powerful piece with sweeping melodies played superbly on the violin and cello, set against more syncopated and agitated contributions from the piano, but all coming together for a tremendous finale. The balance between the three musicians was excellent with sudden silences before the music surged upwards again.

The final work in the concert was Dvorak's Trio No.3 in F. When he introduced the work, Ionel Manciu said that it was a "monster piece, more like a symphony than a chamber work" and he was right! Always intensely aware of each other, the trio handled the dynamics of the piece wonderfully. The beautiful slow movement led into an intense and dramatic finale, leaving the audience spellbound.