

Alma Trio sets concert

February 7, 1968

The Alma Trio, internationally recognized as one of the finest ensembles performing works for violin, cello and piano, will appear at 8:30 p.m., Friday, February 16 at Sherwood Hall, La Jolla.

The concert is sponsored by the University of California, San Diego Committee for Arts and Lectures. Tickets are available at \$3.00 for the public and \$1.00 for UCSD students.

The group, composed of Andor Toth, violinist, Gabor Rejto, cellist, and Adolph Baller, pianist, will play Trio, Opus 1, No. 1 by Beethoven; Trio in A Minor by Ravel, and Trio in E Flat, Opus 100 by Schubert.

The group formed in 1944 when Yehudi Menuhin invited a few musician friends to his Alma Estate in the Santa Cruz mountains in California for a summer of chamber music. Since that time, the Alma Trio has become internationally famous among lovers of the finest chamber music.

The ensemble was the first piano trio invited to Russia. In the fall of 1963 they played 10 concerts in Czechoslovakia and 18 throughout the USSR. It is reported that no other chamber group has played for such packed houses with so many standing ovations. The trio has also toured the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Alaska and Cuba.

Their repertoire includes the trios of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Ravel as well as works by contemporary composers, sonatas for violin and piano and cello and piano. Their programs thus offer a variety of instrumentation and each artist appears as a soloist in combination with another.

Alfred Frankenstein of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote about their performance: "A Superb performance... impeccable craftsmanship, vitality, infectious pleasure in fine music-making and an inquiring attitude toward repertoire are some of the distinguishing qualities of this group."

A Czechoslovakian reviewer wrote: "In Prague we have many first class chamber music ensembles, but the performance of the Alma Trio will linger in our memories as one of the very best and most exciting experiences."