

Concert Season 2017/18

The Philharmonic Pandemonium

The Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra's Chamber Scene

Chamber Music Series

Thursday, 30 November 2017
Belgrade Philharmonic Hall, 7pm

Giovanni Sollima

Viaggio in Italia / Journey in Italy

Soloists: **Maja Bogdanović**, violoncello, and **Vladimir Aleksić**, voice

The Belgrade Philharmonic String Quartet:

Jelena Dragnić, first violin

Vladan Lončar, second violin

Boris Brezovac, viola

Aleksandar Latković, violoncello

Giovanni Sollima

Viaggio in Italia per quartetto d'archi, violoncello, voce maschile ed electronics /
Journey in Italy for string quartet, violoncello, male voice and electronics /
Путовање по Италији за гудачки квартет, виолончело, мушки глас и електронику

Federico II / Frederick II / Фридрих II

Giotto – Dante / Giotto – Dante / Ђото - Данте

Bella e Crudela / Beautiful and Cruel / Лепа и окрутна (текст: Микеланђело Буонароти)

Campo dei miracoli / Field of Miracles / Поље чуда

Ritratto di musico / Portrait of a Musician / Портрет музичара

L'Ortolano / The Market Gardener / Баштован

Borromini / Borromini / Боромини (текст: Боромини и други извори)

L'Isola Ferdinanda / The Ferdinanda Island / Острво Фердинанда

Campo de' fiori / Field of Flowers / Поље цвећа (текст: Ђордано Бруно)

La Tempesta / The Storm / Олуја

Zobeide / Zobeide / Зобеида

Casanova Sonata (I, II, Furlana) / Casanova's Sonata / Казановина соната

Cretto / Maze / Лавиринт

La camera bianca / The white room / Бела соба

Duration: approx. 67 minutes.

Giovanni Sollima (1962) is a distinguished Italian composer and cellist. In addition to an impressive career as a soloist, he has devoted much attention to composing, which is characterised by a distinctive post-minimalist musical expression, which employs a wide range of genres: from the elements of jazz and rock, to diverse folklore traditions of the Mediterranean. His oeuvre include a large number of pieces: incidental, orchestral, concertante, solo, as well as music for various chamber ensembles.

The cycle of works grouped under the title *Journey in Italy* was written in the year 2000. It was premiered by the Lark Quartet, with Sollima as the soloist (voice and cello) in October of the same year, at Carnegie Hall New York. The same ensemble also recorded the piece, which is nowadays frequently included in concert repertoires. The piece is equally popular in its integral version, as well as its movements individually.

The composition is dedicated to renowned Italian jeweller Gianmaria Buccellati, whose foundation commissioned the piece.

In fourteen attractive, evocative and diverse miniatures, Sollima incorporates, among other elements, texts by Michelangelo Buonarroti, Giordano Bruno and Francesco Borromini. The composition tells various, character-defining stories, inspired by the Italian history. He often uses melancholic melodies, with noticeable folklore influence of the Mediterranean, most notably from his native Sicily, as well as memorable, energetic rhythms and innovative harmonic solutions, which take credits for the unique artistic character of the piece.

Asja Radonjić

The next concert of the Chamber Music Series:

Thursday, 11 January 2018

The Belgrade Philharmonic Hall, 7pm

E. Satie / I. Wilson: *Socrates Ungraved* for violin and strings

Conductor: Aleksandar Kojić

Soloist: Dušica Mladenović, violin

Maja Bogdanović impresses audiences worldwide as one of the leading cellists of today. Her concerto engagements have included Tonhalle Orchester Zurich, Berlin Symphony at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Tokyo Philharmonic, Bremerhaven Staatsorchester, Slovenian, Belgrade and Macedonian Philharmonic, Orchestra del Teatro Civico Schio, Lubbock Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Munchener Kammerorchester, Sydenham Festival Orchestra, Serbian Radio Symphony, Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, Korean Wonju Philharmonic Orchestra, Salta Symphony Orchestra (Argentina), Morelia Philharmonic Orchestra (Mexico), St. Bartholomew Orchestra London, Vojvodina Symphony, Orchestre des Laureats du Conservatoire de Paris, Orchestre de Chambre Nouvelle Europe as well as chamber orchestras Dusan Skovran, St. George Strings and the Sejong Soloists.

Maja has given recitals and chamber music concerts in many of the world's leading venues and festivals, which include the Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, Tonhalle Dusseldorf, Salle Pleyel, Salle Gaveau and Amphitheatre Sorbonne Paris, Palais des Congres Nantes, Prinzregententheater Munich, the Festival de Radio France et Montpellier, Kuhmo Festival, Beauvais Cello Festival, Festival du Perigord Noir, Giverny Festival, European Festival of Young Talents in Paris, Plaisir de Musiques Annecy, Arcachon Festival, Classiques d'avenir Biarritz, Folles journées in Nantes, Roque d'Antheron, Zeist Festival in Holland and Amsterdamse Cello Biennale.

Ms. Bogdanovic dedicates a special place to contemporary music. She has premiered works of Krzysztof Penderecki, Sofia Gubaidulina, Philip Sawyers, Nicolas Bacri, Eric Tanguy, Benjamin Yusupov, Ivan Jevtić and others. Most notably, her collaboration with Krzysztof Penderecki began in France, with the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, and continued with the Belgrade Philharmonic, Slovenian Philharmonic and the Tonhalle Orchester Zurich. Among a select group of world's leading artists that have included Lorin Maazel, Anne-Sophie Mutter and others, Maja was invited to give a special performance in Warsaw for the occasion of the composer's 80th birthday, collaborating with Yuri Bashmet, Julian Rachlin and Barry Douglas.

She has produced several internationally released CD recordings for the French label Lyrinx, as well as the Nimbus label recording of the Concerto for Cello and Orchestra dedicated to her by the English composer Philip Sawyers.

Laureate of leading international competitions, Maja Bogdanovic won the First Prize at the Aldo Parisot Cello Competition, received the Second Prize and the Special Audience Award at the Gaspar Cassado International Competition, was awarded the special prize at the Concours Rostropovich in Paris and, in the same year, she also became a multiple laureate of the International Jeunesses Musicales Competition in Belgrade, as the recipient of the Third and two special awards. In 2008, the Safran Foundation for Music presented her the prize for achievements, and was the winner of the UMUS Artist of the Year Award in 2011.

Maja graduated with the First Prize at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where she completed her postgraduate course with Michel Strauss in addition to studying chamber music with Itamar Golan and Pierre-Laurent Aimard. Following her studies in Paris, she pursued further training at the UDK Berlin with Prof. Jens Peter Maintz, as well as with Bernard Greenhouse, Alban Gerhardt, Young-Chang Cho and Heinrich Schiff. Maja's music education begun at a very early age with Prof. Nada Jovanovic at the Kosta Manojlovic Music School in Zemun, during which time she

won the highest awards at national and international competitions in the Czech Republic, Austria, France and Italy.

Maja Bogdanovic plays a violoncello custom made for her by the renowned French luthier Frank Ravatin.

Vladimir Aleksić was born in Zrenjanin in 1977. He studied acting at the Novi Sad Academy of Arts. Immediately after graduation, he moved to Italy at the invitation of the Italian theatre company Motus, with which he still cooperates nowadays. With them, Vladimir acted in a number of plays, and in 2004 the Rooms project was awarded as the best theatre project in Italy (Ubu Award).

Aleksić has also worked with Elena Bucci, Pappi Corsicato, Lisa Natoli, Emma Dante, Masbedo and others. He returned to Serbia in 2008 and has since acted in productions by Ivica Buljan, Nikita Milivojević, Iva Milošević, Gorčin Stojanović, Milan Nešković, Stevan Bodroža and others. Vladimir has also been active as a film and TV actor (*Žučko – Priča o Radivoju Koraću, Triologia anni 70, Humidity, Rekvijem za gospodju J...*). In 2016, he acted in his first play *Drugovi, ja se ni sada ne stidim svoje komunističke prošlosti* (Comrades, even now I am not ashamed of my communist past), (Serbian/Belgian/French co-production).

He has collaborated with the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra in several projects over the past few seasons (children's concert series – Vivaldi: Four Seasons 2013/14, the Philharmonic Theatre 2016/17, and others).

Vladimir Aleksić' vocal preparation for tonight's concert has been done by Ana Čosović.

The Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra musicians **Jelena Dragnić, Vladan Lončar, Boris Brezovac and Aleksandar Latković**, founded the String Quartet within this orchestra in 2011. The Quartet's recent achievements include performances on concert stages such as Manarat al Saadiyat as part of the Abu Dhabi Classics Festival, at the opening of the "Chamber Music in Desert" concert season at Liwa Oasis in the United Arab Emirates, two guest appearances in China at Tianjin Concert Hall, a concert at the Centre Culturel de Serbie in Paris and at the Cultural Centre in Izmir, Turkey. In July 2017 the Quartet performed at the Ljubljana Festival, while other recent highlights include concert appearances at the Mokranjčevi Dani Festival in Negotin, the Espresso Festival in Cetinje, SVEM Festival in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, at the Modern Gallery in Podgorica, Montenegro, at the opening of the SOMUS Festival in Sombor, Serbia, at the Filipovi dani Festival in Niš, as well as at the Republic of Srpska National Theatre, celebrating the Day of Banja Luka. Furthermore, their concert at Studio 6 Belgrade was broadcasted live by the Serbian Broadcasting Corporation Channel 3. During the 2015/16 season, the Quartet members were mentors to the young trainees of the Winter String Quartet Workshop in Podgorica, and at the Montenegro Summer Chamber Music Camp at Ivanova korita on Mount Lovćen. In June 2015, in cooperation with clarinetist Ognjen Popović, the Belgrade Philharmonic String Quartet published their first CD with pieces by Beethoven and Brahms. In the season 2013/14, the Quartet and their guests performed five chamber music concerts at the Belgrade Philharmonic Hall, as part of its own series titled "Quartet + 1". In addition to music for string quartet, the series also included quintets with two violas, with clarinet, piano and voice. In the season 2012/13, the Quartet gave a memorable performance of

the Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra by Erwin Schulhoff at the Kolarac Grand Concert Hall, accompanied by the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra and its then Chief Conductor Muhai Tang. Other performances of the Belgrade Philharmonic String Quartet in Serbia and the region have included the opening of the Classic Fest Pančevo, the European Day celebration in Belgrade organised by the EU Delegation to Serbia, the performance within the Creative Europe Conference at the Kulturni Centar Grad, as well as appearances in Gornji Milanovac, Subotica, Vršac and the village of Stanišor in Kosovo & Metohija as part of the orchestra's humanitarian and corporate social responsibility projects.