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NAXOS

Sofia
GUBAIDULINA

Fachwerk

Silenzio

Geir Draugsvoll, Bayan

Anders Loguin, Percussion

Geir Inge Lotsberg, Violin

Øyvind Gimse, Cello

Trondheim Symphony Orchestra

Øyvind Gimse

Sofia Gubaidulina (b. 1931)

Fachwerk · Silenzio

Sofia Gubaidulina was born in Chistopol in the Tatar Republic on 24th October 1931. She studied the piano with Grigory Kogan and composition, and graduated from the Kazan Conservatory in 1954. Until 1959 she studied composition at the Moscow Conservatory with Nikolai Peiko, Shostakovich's assistant, and then did postgraduate work under Vissarion Shebalin. She has been active as a composer since 1963. In 1975, together with Viktor Suslin and Vyacheslav Artyomov, she founded the 'Astreya' Ensemble, which specialised in improvising on rare Russian, Caucasian, Central Asian and East Asian folk and ritual instruments. These hitherto unknown sounds and timbres and ways of experiencing musical time had a profound influence on her creative work. Since the early 1980s, and especially as a result of the support and encouragement given to her by Gidon Kremer, her works have been performed widely in western countries. With Schnittke, Denisov and Silvestrov, she is now seen to be one of the leading representatives of the New Music in the former Soviet Union. This is reflected in numerous commissions from the BBC, the Berlin Festival, the Library of Congress, NHK, the New York Philharmonic and other institutions, and in the availability of a large number of recordings. Sofia Gubaidulina is a member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, of the Freie Akademie der Künste in Hamburg, of the Royal Music Academy in Stockholm and of the German order "Pour le mérite". In 1992 Gubaidulina moved to Germany, and now lives near Hamburg.

Sofia Gubaidulina has received numerous awards and prizes. These include the Rome International Composer's Competition (1974), the Prix de Monaco (1987), the Koussevitzky International Record Award (1989 and 1994) for the recording of her violin concerto '*Offertorium*' (DG 47336-2), and her symphony '*Stimmen ... verstummen ...*' (Chandos 9183), the Premio Franco Abbiato (1991), the Heidelberger Künstlerinnenpreis (1991) and the Russian State Prize (1992). Her recent awards include the Ludwig Spohr Prize of the City of Brunswick (1995), the Japanese

Praemium Imperiale (Tokyo, 1998), the Prize of the Léonie Sonning Music Foundation in Copenhagen (1999), the Stockholm Concert Hall Foundation's Honorary Medal in Gold (2000), the Goethe Medal of the City of Weimar (2001), the Polar Music Prize (2002), the Great Distinguished Service Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (2002) as well as the Living Composer Prize in the Cannes Classical Awards 2003.

Although Sofia Gubaidulina's education and background are Russian, it is important to bear in mind the significance of her Tatar origins. She is not, however, a Romantic nationalist. Her compositional mastery enables her to make use of contemporary techniques evolved by the European and American avant-garde, though in a wholly individual manner. Furthermore, oriental philosophies have had an influence on certain aspects of her music. A striking feature of Gubaidulina's work is the almost total absence of 'absolute' music. The vast majority of her pieces have an extra-musical dimension, e.g. a poem, either set to music or hidden between the lines, a ritual, or some kind of instrumental 'action'. Some of her compositions demonstrate her preoccupation with mystical ideas and Christian symbolism. She has wide-ranging literary interests, and has set to music poems by ancient Egyptian

Geir Draugswoll and Sofia Gubaidulina receiving applause at the world première of *Fachwerk* in Amsterdam, 2009



Photo: Casper Burkhardt

and Persian writers and contemporary lyric poetry by Marina Tsvetayeva, for whom she feels a deep spiritual affinity.

"To my mind the ideal relationship to tradition and to new compositional techniques is the one in which the artist has mastered both the old and the new, though in a way which makes it seem that he is taking note of neither the one nor the other. There are composers who construct their works very consciously; I am one of those who 'cultivate' them. And for this reason everything I have assimilated forms as it were the roots of a tree, and the work its branches and leaves. One can indeed describe them as being new, but they are leaves nonetheless, and seen in this way they are always traditional and old. Dmitry Shostakovich and Anton Webern have had the greatest influence on my work. Although my music bears no apparent traces of it, these two composers taught me the most important lesson of all: to be myself." (Sofia Gubaidulina)

Fachwerk (Timber Framing)

for Bayan, Percussion and String Orchestra
(dedicated to Geir Draugsvoll)

"The title of this work can be traced back to my enthusiasm for the architectural style of timber framing. This is a highly specialised, unique style in which the constructive elements of a building are not hidden behind the building façade, but, on the contrary, are shown openly. The constructive elements which are indispensable for such a building, such as wall struts, window and door latches and beam ceilings, form different kinds of geometrical patterns which become an aesthetic phenomenon. And at times, a still more profound phenomenon shines through from behind this beauty, an essential, intrinsic phenomenon. Thus one distinguishes, for example, between the strut types "Swabian man," "Swabian woman," "wild man" and "standing St Andrew's cross."

"I imagined that one could also show something in music reminiscent of this style, i.e. compose in such a way that the construction of a certain instrument would become visible and transformed into something of an aesthetic nature.

"A musical instrument does in fact exist which makes it possible to realise this idea. It is the bayan, on which one can switch the keyboard from the melodic mode to the chordal mode.

"In one and the same row of buttons, one has the dynamics of a melodic line above or below and, at the same time, the stasis of chord sounds in the middle of the sound area at one's disposal.

"In this structure, in principle, there is a dominant (the melodic line above), a subdominant (the melodic line below) and a tonic (chords in the centre of the system) – three aspects that determine the essence of order in the universe.

"In my composition for bayan, percussion and strings, I have tried to show this characteristic of the instrument in the cadencing moments of a variation form. In one of the most important sections, however, the succession of chords of the keyboard played in the chordal mode sounds simultaneously with its melodic variant. And here, I could say without exaggeration that this section was composed by the instrument itself."

Silenzio for Bayan, Violin and Cello

Silenzio, a set of five pieces for bayan, violin and cello, (dedicated to Elisabeth Moser), dates from 1991. "The greater part of the work", the composer explains, "is to be played pianissimo.

"It was not my aim just to express silence or to create such an impression. For me silence is the foundation from which something grows. Exact rhythmic proportions are made which appear differently in all five miniatures, at times concealed, at times in the form of proportions of note length. In the last miniature the hidden and open are brought together in a synthesis. In the course of the whole movement we hear significantly formulated rhythmic sequences in the bayan part (quasi variations on a rhythm). It is the same rhythm that can also be heard in the relationship to each other of the formal sections, 7- 2- 5."

Notes supplied by Sikorski Music Publishers

Geir Draugsvoll



appointed associate professor at the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where he now lives.

Geir Draugsvoll has earned world-wide recognition as one of the most important musicians and pioneers on his instrument, the bayan, with a repertoire ranging from arrangements of music by Bach, Mozart, Grieg and Stravinsky to contemporary classics such as Gubaidulina, Hosokawa, Berio, Nørgaard and Piazzolla. Through collaborations with many composers, he has given world premières of a large number of works, and works by Sofia Gubaidulina have a particularly prominent place in his concert programmes and discography. The collaboration between Draugsvoll and Gubaidulina culminated in 2009 when he gave the world première of her latest concerto, *Fachwerk*, which was dedicated to him. Draugsvoll has performed throughout Europe, in the United States, China and Japan, appearing in major concert halls and in festivals, and collaborating with distinguished conductors. His extensive discography includes recordings for EMI, BIS, Simax, Delos, DaCapo, Dreyer-Gaido and many others. Geir Draugsvoll is Norwegian, born at Voss, and studied in Copenhagen with Mogens Ellegaard. In 1995 he was

www.draugsvoll.dk

Anders Loguin



Photo: Brita Carlens

Anders Loguin studied percussion at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, and conducting in Sweden, Finland and the United States. He frequently conducts orchestras and ensembles in Sweden and abroad. He was a founding member of the percussion ensemble Kroumata, and left the ensemble in 2008, co-founding the ensemble Glorious Percussion, which gave the world première of Sofia Gubaidulina's work of the same name for five percussionists and orchestra. Loguin participated in the world première concerts of *Fachwerk* in 2009. Since 1977 he has been professor and head of the percussion department at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. Anders Loguin was elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in 2002. In 2008 His Majesty the King of Sweden awarded him the royal medal "Litteris et Artibus" for his outstanding contribution to the field of music and art in Sweden and abroad.

Geir Inge Lotsberg



Photo: Bo Mathisen

Geir Inge Lotsberg has distinguished himself as one of Norway's most active chamber musicians. After studies with Leif Jørgensen, Sándor Végh, Camilla Wicks and Ana Chumachenko, he became one of the founding members of the Oslo String Quartet. He is a widely experienced musician with a number of recordings to his credit as a chamber musician and as a member of ensembles such as the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra and Camerata Salzburg, and as concert-master of the Bergen Philharmonic and Norwegian National Opera orchestras. He has appeared as a soloist with the Oslo Philharmonic, the Norwegian Radio Symphony, and Camerata Academica Salzburg. Lotsberg is much in demand as a teacher and orchestra leader, working regularly with the Trondheim Soloists and teaching at Barratt Due Music Institute in Oslo.

www.lotsberg.no

Øyvind Gimse



Photo: Arild Juul

Øyvind Gimse is Artistic Leader of the Trondheim Soloists and a distinguished cellist and orchestral leader. After studies with Walter Nothas, Frans Helmerson and William Pleeth, he held the position of solo cellist in the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra for seven years. He has toured as a soloist with the Trondheim Soloists in Norway, Britain, Italy and Spain. His performances with Anne-Sophie Mutter and the Trondheim Soloists throughout Europe and at the Carnegie Hall in 1999, as well as the recordings with her and the ensemble for DG, have received the highest critical acclaim. In addition his own work as Artistic Leader of the Trondheim Soloists has resulted in the group receiving no less than five GRAMMY® nominations for their last two recordings. In 2004 Gimse joined Sofia Gubaidulina as soloist in her work *On the Edge of the Abyss* at the Trondheim Chamber Music Festival and during the world première concert performances of *Fachwerk* with Geir Draugsvoll and the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, he was invited to perform the solo cello part. Since

1997 Gimse has held the position of Professor of Strings at the Institute for Music (NTNU) in Trondheim. He has also taught elsewhere in Scandinavia, Poland, Vietnam and South Africa. In recent years he has, under the guidance of Jorma Panula, developed his conducting skills as a natural extension of his leadership rôle in the Trondheim Soloists.

Trondheim Symphony Orchestra

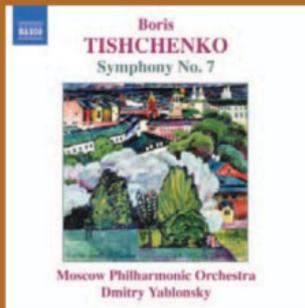


Photo: Christian Nilsen

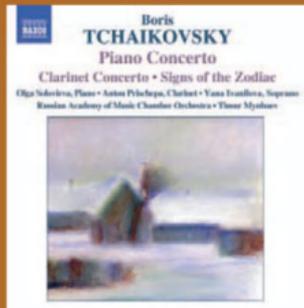
Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1909, takes its place in the extensive musical heritage of the city of Trondheim. Before the nineteenth century Trondheim was the main focal point for sacred music in Scandinavia. This encouraged many significant musicians of the time to settle there. The growth and expansion of European music culture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was also mirrored within the city. This period saw the foundation of several music societies. The development of the orchestra gained impetus with the jubilee of St Olav in 1930. In more recent times the orchestra has established a solid position in local musical life and that of Norway as a whole. Recent successful tours in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and China has enhanced the orchestra's international

reputation. From 2009 the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra has continued its development through closer cooperation with the Trondheim Soloists, resulting in an increased complement of ninety musicians. The Chief Conductor is currently Krzysztof Urbanski.

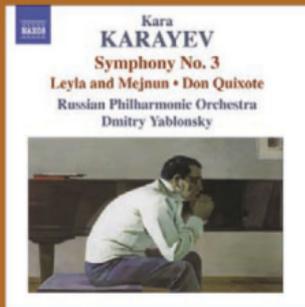
Also available



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Playing Time
55:54

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Sofia Gubaidulina's distinguished career and her 80th anniversary are celebrated with this world première recording of *Fachwerk*. Recorded here by its acclaimed dedicatee Geir Draugsvoll and in the presence of the composer, this dramatic but also magical work is inspired by a fascination with architectural styles of timber framing. The bayan is a distinctively Russian variant of the accordion and is an essential feature of this piece, also giving a special character to the subtle poetry and textures of *Silenzio*.

Sofia
GUBAIDULINA
(b.1931)

1 *Fachwerk* for Bayan, Percussion
and String Orchestra (2009/11)* **36:16**

Silenzio for Bayan, Violin
and Cello (1991) **19:38**

2 I. ♩ = 96	4:34	5 IV. ♩ = 152	1:20
3 II. ♩ = 42	2:57	6 V. ♩ = 72	7:58
4 III. ♩ = 56	2:50		

***WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING**

Geir Draugsvoll, Bayan • Anders Loguin, Percussion 1

Geir Inge Lotsberg, Violin 2 • Øyvind Gimse, Cello 2

Trondheim Symphony Orchestra Strings 1 • Øyvind Gimse 1

This recording has been produced with financial assistance from Pro Arte Kulturkontor-Kjell Wernøe (www.proarte.no) and with support from the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra (www.tso.no) Recorded at Kolstad Church, Trondheim, Norway, from 28th February to 4th March, 2011

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Invaluable inspiration during the recording sessions was provided by Sofia Gubaidulina

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