

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS



MARINA REBEKA'S FIRST PIANO RECITAL ALBUM

*An invitation to travel with the flair of 19th century chamber music,
written by French composers, female and male,
sung in French, Italian, German, and Russian.*

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VOYAGE

Responding to an Invitation to Travel

Some musical objects resist scholarly classifications. Straddling two genres or requiring an unusual membership, they escape the boxes in which we like to lock each score before carefully storing it in a thematic catalogue. The same goes for *mélodies* composed by French people on foreign texts: should they be considered as French *mélodies*? Are they losing their French character? Are they even still *mélodies* or do they become *lieder*, songs, or any other form specific to the language used?

By bringing together works by French musicians composed on French, Russian, German and Italian texts, or in the Tuscan dialect, this album encourages us to make a change of scale, to break the frames and respond to an invitation to travel.

Most of the *mélodies* in this recital were composed between 1860 and 1890, that is to say on the threshold of the Belle Époque and the Second Industrial Revolution. Behind the mirage of national identities, we will perceive a European context conducive to dreams of escape and a cosmopolitanism embodied by great musical figures, such as **Henri Duparc, Cécile Cheminade, Maurice Ravel, Camille Saint-Saëns, Charles-Marie Widor, Gabriel Fauré, Charles Gounod**, and the extraordinarily talented female composers **Marie Jaëll** and **Pauline Viardot**.

Marina Rebeka and **Mathieu Pordoy** approach this eclectic repertoire using a rainbow of musical colors, succeeding indeed in capturing the very essence of each piece. An exquisite album for the musically curious and the armchair traveller alike.

Tracklist

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| 1. Henri Duparc | L'invitation au voyage / An invitation to travel |
| 2. Cécile Cheminade | Chanson slave / Slavic song |
| 3. Marie Jaëll | Rêverie / Dream |
| 4. Maurice Ravel | La Flûte enchantée / The enchanted flute |
| 5. Camille Saint-Saëns | Désir de l'Orient / Desire from the Orient |
| 6. Charles-Marie Widor | Chanson indienne / Indian song |
| 7. Gabriel Fauré | Les Roses d'Ispahan / The roses of Isfahan |
| 8. Charles Gounod | Perché piangi? / Why do you cry? |
| 9. Camille Saint-Saëns | La Madonna col bambino / The Madonna with child |
| 10. Camille Saint-Saëns | Alla riva del Tevere / On the shore of the Tiber |
| 11. Charles Gounod | Oh! Dille tu! / Oh! Tell her! |
| 12. Pauline Viardot | L'Innamorata / A woman in love |
| 13. Marie Jaëll | Dein / Yours |
| 14. Marie Jaëll | Der Sturm / The storm |
| 15. Marie Jaëll | Die Vöglein / Little birds |
| 16. Marie Jaëll | Ewige Liebe / Eternal love |
| 17. Marie Jaëll | Die Wang' ist blass / The cheek is pale |
| 18. Pauline Viardot | Синица / The Chickadee |
| 19. Pauline Viardot | Ива / The Willow |
| 20. Pauline Viardot | Серенада / Serenade |
| 21. Pauline Viardot | Цветок / The flower |
| 22. Pauline Viardot | Шёпот, робкое дыханье / Whisper, timid breathing... |
| 23. Pauline Viardot | Заклинание / Invocation |

Marina Rebeka, soprano

Latvian soprano Marina Rebeka is one of the leading opera singers of our time. Since her international breakthrough at the Salzburg Festival in 2009 under the baton of Riccardo Muti, Rebeka has been a regular guest at the world's most prestigious concert halls and opera houses, including the Teatro alla Scala (Milan), the Opéra National de Paris, the Metropolitan Opera (New York), the Royal Opera House Covent Garden (London), the Bavarian State Opera (Munich), the Vienna State Opera, and the Zurich Opera House.

She collaborates with leading conductors, including Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, Antonio Pappano, Valery Gergiev, Fabio Luisi, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Daniele Gatti. The variety of her repertoire ranges from Baroque, through bel canto and Verdi, to Tchaikovsky and Britten.

As an active and widely acclaimed concert performer, Rebeka has given recitals at many of the world's most prestigious venues, such as the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the Großes Festspielhaus in Salzburg, the Opernhaus Zürich, and others.

Rebeka's discography includes releases with Deutsche Grammophon, Warner Classics (EMI), BR Klassik, and Naxos. She has recorded Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Mozart's arias, *Amor Fatale* (an album of Rossini's arias), Verdi's full opera *Luisa Miller*, and Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*. On her own record label, Prima Classic, she has released the album *Spirito* (scenes and arias of the dramatic bel canto), Verdi's opera *La Traviata*, and her solo albums *Elle* (French opera arias) and *Credo* (a selection of sacred and spiritual music). Rebeka also sang the role of Imogene in the recording of Bellini's *Il Pirata*, an album released by Prima Classic that received the 2022 International Classical Music Award (ICMA) for opera recording of the year.

In December 2016, Rebeka was granted the Order of the Three Stars, the highest award of the Republic of Latvia, for her cultural achievements. In the 2017/18 season, she was named the first-ever artist in residence by the Münchner Rundfunkorchester. In 2020, she received the International Classical Music Award (ICMA) for artist of the year and the Latvian Ministry of Culture Award for Excellence. In 2021, she was awarded the first-ever Premio alla Carriera "Toti dal Monte".

www.marinarebeka.com



Mathieu Pordoy, pianist

French collaborative pianist and recitalist Mathieu Pordoy has emerged as one of the most promising vocal coaches of his generation.

Pordoy graduated with honors from the Paris Conservatoire, where he taught from 2006 to 2011. In 2019, he made a double debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City with Berlioz's *Lélio* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner and in a recital with Sabine Devieilhe, with whom he continued to collaborate, performing at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, and elsewhere. He also regularly collaborates with the American tenor Michael Spyres, with whom he has performed a series of recitals throughout Europe and Canada.

Pordoy made his debut at the Salzburg Festival alongside tenor Benjamin Bernheim, repeating the same program at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the Konzerthaus Wien. With Marina Rebeka, he performed a program of Italian and Russian songs at the Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, the Salle Gaveau in Paris, and the Great Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

As a specialist in French opera, Pordoy is regularly invited to appear at the Opéra-Comique in Paris, the Opéra de Monte-Carlo, the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, the Wiener Staatsoper, the Opéra de Paris, and the Opernhaus Zürich.

Pordoy has led masterclasses at the Mariinsky Academy of Young Opera Singers and has held positions at the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute in Montreal and the International Vocal Arts Institute in Israel. At the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, he served as a vocal coach for the festival's Young Artists Program. As a vocal coach and accompanist, he has performed at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Auditorio de Tenerife, the Chorégies d'Orange festival, the Oper Köln, the Teatro Municipal de Santiago in Chile and other venues and events.

Pordoy has collaborated with conductors Fabio Luisi, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Gianandrea Noseda, Daniele Gatti, François-Xavier Roth, Mikko Franck, and Alain Altinoglu.





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