

PRIMA  
CLASSIC



# TWIN VOICES

DUO YAKOVLEV

WORKS BY

LECLER • MAZAS • BERIOT • PROKOFIEV

MÜLLER-ZÜRICH • DVOŘÁK AND SUK

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D U O Y A K O V L E V

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Jean-Marie Leclair:  
Sonata for Two Violins No. 5 in E minor, Op. 3

- 01 I. Allegro ma poco
- 02 II. Gavotte (Andante)
- 03 III. Presto

Jacques-Féréol Mazas:  
Duo No. 4 from Six Duos for Two Violins, Op. 61

- 04 I. Allegro non troppo
- 05 II. Andante sostenuto
- 06 III. Allegro moderato

Charles-Auguste de Bériot:  
Duo concertante for Two Violins, Op. 57

- 07 I. Moderato
- 08 II. Adagio moderato
- 09 III. Rondo: Allegro con spirito

Sergei Prokofiev:  
Sonata for Two Violins in C major, Op. 56

- 10 I. Andante cantabile
- 11 II. Allegro
- 12 III. Commodo (quasi allegretto)
- 13 IV. Allegro con brio

Paul Müller-Zürich:  
Präludium, Aria und Fuga über ein  
chromatisches Motiv for Two Violins

- 14 I. Allegro energico
- 15 II. Andante
- 16 III. Vivace

Antonín Dvořák:  
Humoresque in G-flat major, Op. 101 No. 7  
(arr. for two violins by Josef Zemla)

Josef Suk:  
18 Mélodie for Two Violins



## THIS ALBUM IS, IN MANY WAYS, OUR LIFE TOGETHER

These pieces have been with us for many years. We grew up with them, returned to them again and again, and lived through different stages of our lives with this music. Over time, they became more than repertoire – they became part of our shared memory, our inner landscape as brother and sister.

Our violins, too, are brother and sister. By a stroke of fate, we both play instruments made by the same French master, Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume. They live with us, breathe with us, and continue to change, just as we do. With every year they gain new colours, new depth, a new voice, and we feel that their sound grows together with our own.

This recording is not a snapshot of one moment, but a reflection of a long journey – of two people, two instruments, and the music that has shaped us. We hope that, as you listen, you will hear not only the notes, but also the closeness, the trust, and the quiet conversation that exists between us.

**TWO VIOLINS ARE LIKE TWO VOICES** – speaking, arguing, and laughing with each other. Sometimes they intertwine like branches of the same tree, sometimes they move side by side, each keeping its own line. Yet their meeting always creates music that is more than the sum of two instruments.

We gathered duets from different eras to show that this magic has been alive for centuries. In the Baroque, the violins dance with refinement; in the Classical era, they shine with light and clarity; in the Romantic period, they open their hearts and sing of emotions; and in the 20th century, they boldly explore new horizons.

What amazes us is how such an intimate ensemble can reveal an entire universe – from whispers and tenderness to fiery passions and daring experiments. It seems that two violins can say everything music itself can say.

This album is a journey through time and styles, where two violins find a common language again and again – to share joy, beauty, and inspiration with you.



## DUO YAKOVLEV

### PASSION AND PRECISION FOR TWO VIOLINS

Marina Yakovleva and Mikhail Yakovlev form a unique violin duo in which family ties merge into an extraordinary artistic unity. From early childhood they have made music together – today their interplay captivates with perfect synchrony, nuanced technique, and exceptional expressiveness. Their music is a lively dialogue, where both voices support and inspire each other.

A special touch to their duo is the choice of instruments: both play on violins by the legendary French luthier Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume – another “sibling pair” that not only complements in tonal color, but, like the musicians themselves, engages in a sensitive dialogue – sometimes passionate, sometimes restrained, always multi-layered.

Their repertoire includes masterworks for two violins as well as pieces with piano accompaniment from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th-century periods – a stylistic variety that makes their playing attractive to a wide audience. The duo has been widely praised for its “astonishing sonic unity” and “virtuoso freedom.” Their performances are regarded as outstanding chamber music experiences.

# MARINA YAKOVLEVA

## VIOLIN

Marina Yakovleva is an internationally acclaimed violinist from Saint Petersburg. She received her musical training with renowned teachers such as Tibor Varga and Pierre Amoyal. As a soloist and chamber musician, she performs worldwide and is a permanent member of the Zurich Opera Orchestra.

In 2019, she founded the chamber ensemble Amani, with which she performs together with colleagues and friends. She also plays in the family ensemble Three Generations, which unites her artistic collaboration with her children, brother, and parents.

Her passion also lies in historical performance practice: since 2020, she has been a member of the renowned baroque orchestra La Scintilla

In addition to her active concert schedule, Marina Yakovleva devotes herself with great dedication to teaching. She teaches at IMUKA – the First International Music and Art Academy in Switzerland.

She lives in Zurich with her four children – a life in which family and music are inseparably intertwined.





## MIKHAIL YAKOVLEV

### VIOLIN

Mikhail Yakovlev was born in 1980 in Saint Petersburg into a family of musicians. At the age of four he began playing the violin and soon gave his first concert. He received his education at the music school of the Lyceum of the Saint Petersburg Conservatory and later at the Conservatory itself, where he earned his soloist diploma in 2004 in the class of Mikhail Gantwarg.

At the same time, from 1998, he studied in Switzerland at the Tibor Varga Music Academy in Sion and at the International Yehudi Menuhin Academy in Gstaad with Alberto Lysy. During his student years he frequently performed as a soloist and played with the Camerata Lysy and the Tibor Varga Orchestra, among others.

Since 2006, Mikhail Yakovlev has been a member of the renowned Basel Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his work with the orchestra, he is actively engaged in solo and chamber music performances.

He is also a violin lecturer at IMUKA – International Music and Art Academy in Zurich.

## CREDITS

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Photo of Marina Yakovleva by Daria Spühler

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