

# The harmony of contrasts

(Re)discovering the familiar

**Ludmila Pavlová (violin) and Marcin Sikorski (piano)**

After the 19th century and the beginning of national music with Polish Fryderyk Chopin and Czech Antonín Dvořák, in the 20th century, both countries flourished with a lot of visionary composers. Polish mysticism is based on the spirituality of the nation and Czech is rather earthly-based, but both countries share a strong sense of folklorism. In Leoš Janáček's works, he captured common Czech people's talks and transcribed the melody and its rhythm in the utmost utter way in the score. On the contrary, Polish composer Karol Szymanowski paid more attention to emotions while describing his mystical stories in *Myths*.

Ludmila and Marcin are two musicians from two different countries that, despite contrasts and similarities between their nations, share the same points of view on music. Composers' musical language varies during their lifetime. W. Lutosławski is quiet and meditative in his early *Recitativo e Arioso*, but very aggressive in his late work *Subito*, L. Fišer is dramatic in *Ruce* and pleasing in *Amoroso*, K. Penderecki's bizarre *Miniatures* are finding opposition in solemn *Ciaccona in Memoriam Giovanni Paolo II*.

We can also find a lot of opposites within one composition, especially in W. Lutosławski's *Subito*, L. Janáček's *Sonata for violin and piano*, K. Szymanowski's *Notturmo e Tarantella*, O. F. Korte's *Philosophical dialogues* and in *Sonata for violin and piano No. 4* by G. Bacewicz.

The program consists of contrasting works from well-known to lesser-known composers and compositions. Some of them are recognized in one of the countries and forgotten in a second one which makes us feel as *(re)discovering the familiar*.

The nature of Polish and Czech composers is rooted deep down in their Slavic similarities. Creating *Harmony*, and searching for balance, is the essence of music itself. Composers are trying to achieve it in their compositions and performers delivering it to the public.

Czech composers were pretty much influenced by the Polish composers' evolution of musical language after the beginning of *Warsaw Autumn*. Polish violin pedagogy of the 20th century is partly based on Czech Otakar Ševčík's method.

A combination of different stylistic elements such as traditional folk with romantic, impressionistic, or modern music with Polish-Czech interconnections in the 20th-century violin and piano literature is creating a unique harmony of contrasts.

## Programs:

- **All the pieces**

- Czech

- Big pieces:

- Leoš Janáček - Sonata for violin and piano (17 min.)*

- Bohuslav Martinů - Sonata for violin and piano No.3 (27 min.)*

- Small pieces:

- Josef Suk - Fairy tale (5 Min.)*

- Luboš Fišer - Ruce (11 min.)*

- Oldřich F. Korte - Philosophical dialogues (15 min.)*

- Encore:

- Luboš Fišer - Amoroso for violin and piano (3 min.)*

- Polish

- Big pieces:

- Karol Szymanowski - Myths for violin and piano (20 min.)*

- Grażyna Bacewicz - Sonata for violin and piano No.4 (21 min.)*

- Small pieces:

- Grażyna Bacewicz - Kołysanka (4 min.)*

- Karol Szymanowski - Notturmo e Tarantella (10 min.)*

- Karol Szymanowski - Zarzyje, kuniu (5 min.)*

- Karol Szymanowski - Roxana's song (7 min.)*

- Witold Lutosławski - Subito for violin and piano (7 min.)*

- Witold Lutosławski - Recitativo e Arioso (6 min.)*

- Witold Lutosławski - Lullaby for Anne-Sophie (5 min.)*

- Krzysztof Penderecki - Miniatures for violin and piano (8 min.)*

- Encore:

- Karol Szymanowski/Nicolò Paganini - Capriccio No. 24 (7 min.)*

- Combinable with:

- Krzysztof Penderecki - Cadenza for solo violin, Ciaccona in Memoriam Giovanni Paolo II for violin and viola, Duo concertante for violin and piano*

- **Logical:**

- *Grażyna Bacewicz - Sonata for violin and piano No.4 (21 min.) or Oldřich F. Korte - Philosophical dialogues (15 min.)*

- *Krzysztof Penderecki - Miniatures for violin and piano (8 min.)*

- *Witold Lutosławski - Recitativo e Arioso (6 min.)*

- *Witold Lutosławski - Subito for violin and piano (7 min.)*

- *Luboš Fišer - Ruce (11 min.)*

-----INTERMISSION-----

- *Karol Szymanowski - Roxana's song (7 min.)*

- *Karol Szymanowski - Myths for violin and piano (20 min.)*

- *Leoš Janáček - Sonata for violin and piano (17 min.)*

- *Karol Szymanowski - Notturmo e Tarantella (10 min.)*

Encore:

- *Karol Szymanowski - Zarzyje, kuniu (5 min.)*

- *Karol Szymanowski/Nicolò Paganini - Capriccio No. 24 (7 min.)*
- *Luboš Fišer - Amoroso for violin and piano (3 min.)*
  
- **Chronological:**
  - *Karol Szymanowski - Roxana's song (7 min.)*
  - *Leoš Janáček - Sonata for violin and piano (17 min.)*
  - *Karol Szymanowski - Myths for violin and piano (20 min.)*
  - INTERMISSION-----
  - *Grażyna Bacewicz - Kołysanka (4 min.)*
  - *Witold Lutosławski - Subito for violin and piano (7 min.)*
  - *Oldřich F. Korte - Philosophical dialogues (15 min.)*
  - *Witold Lutosławski - Recitativo e Arioso (6 min.)*
  - *Krzysztof Penderecki - Miniatures for violin and piano (8 min.)*
  - *Luboš Fišer - Ruce (11 min.)*
  - *Krzysztof Penderecki - Ciaccona in Memoriam Giovanni Paolo II for violin and viola*
  - *Karol Szymanowski - Notturmo e Tarantella (10 min.)*

Encore:

- *Karol Szymanowski - Zarzyje, kuniu (5 min.)*
- *Karol Szymanowski/Nicolò Paganini - Capriccio No. 24 (7 min.)*
- *Luboš Fišer - Amoroso for violin and piano (3 min.)*

Programs can be also consisting mainly from Czech or mainly from Polish pieces.

**Ludmila Pavlová** is a Czech violinist targeting music of the 20th century, especially in Czech and Poland. She is currently studying for her PhD. at the Academy of Performing Arts



in Prague and aside from her artistic research, she won an Excellent Grant competition on the theme: *Relaxation techniques for violinists from a psychological, physiological, and pedagogical point of view and its subsequent use in the music of the 20th and 21st centuries.*

[www.ludmilapavlova.net](http://www.ludmilapavlova.net)

Ludmila Pavlová started playing the violin at four. At an early age, she had already gained first prizes in big Czech youth competitions, such as the Plzeňské housličky competition, the duo competition Filčíkova Chrast, and the International Violin Competition Josef Muzika. As a part of the concert series Josef Suk Presents Young Talents (Josef Suk uvádí mladé talenty), Ludmila Pavlová played her debut in Rudolfinum in Prague in 2007 at the age of 13, alongside the famous Czech violinist. This was followed by many soloistic appearances with several Czech youth orchestras and the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Ludmila Pavlová now finished her MgA. and started her PhD. at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Prague

with Prof. Ivan Štraus and Prof. Pavel Šporcl, and she was at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna with Prof. Jan Pospíchal.

She took masterclasses with Anne-Sophie Mutter, Schlomo Mintz, Charles Avsharian, Robert Davidovici, Zdeňek Gola, Ivan Ženatý, and Vadim Gluzman. She was accepted to study in classes of György Pauk, Itzhak Rashkovsky, Daniel Rowland, and Sergey Krylov.

In 2014 Ludmila was first prize laureate of the Václav Hudeček Academy, where she was awarded a violin by the famous contemporary Czech violin maker Petr Rácz and a contract to participate with Václav Hudeček on his tour. 2018 she was awarded a scholarship from the Dvořák society in London and attended Dartington summer school in the class of Thomas Gould. At the concert of the best participants, she played "The last rose of summer" by H. W. Ernst. The large repertory of the young violinist ranges from Baroque to Contemporary music, and she premiered many compositions.

Ludmila Pavlová appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Estonia, Belgium, the UK, UAE, and Japan. The past seasons included projects with the Janáček-Philharmony and Jean Sibelius Violin Concerto d-minor and a collaboration with the conductor Jack Martin Händler and the Academy Chamber Orchestra for a concert in honor of the 100. anniversary of Yehudi Menuhin. She has also recently played a Sibelius violin concerto with the North Czech Philharmonic and the conductor Schlomo Mintz. Ludmila also cooperated with the Festival chamber orchestra and played for Anne-Sophie Mutter in Prague Rudolfinum. 2017 she released her debut CD and founded the chamber music festival "Podkrkonošské hudební léto."

Recently she appeared in concerts in Great Britain with pianist Alissa Firsova and played her debut concert in Musikverein with Maxmilián Khevenhüller. Ludmila became the absolute winner at The international violin competition "Young European talents" in honor of master Váša Příhoda in České Budějovice and later this year laureate of Bohuslav Martinů

competition. In June 2019 she also received a gold medal with high distinction in the 4th Manhattan International Music Competition. Ludmila is playing the historical instrument that she was given by the sponsor from Vienna.

**Marcin Sikorski** - a chamber music pianist born in 1971 - is recognized to be „the most outstanding Polish chamber pianist of his generation”. His performances are highly acclaimed both by the audience and critics.



He has given concerts with Bartek Nizioł, Erin Keefe, Reiko Otani, Haik Kazazyan, Li Teng, Mei Diyang, Alena Baeva, Veriko Tchumburidze, Jarosław Bręk, Silesian String Quartet, AKADEMOS Quartet, Sinfonia Iuventus Orchester, Maestro L. Foster, M. Caldi, T. Wojciechowski. He has collaborated with violinist Soyoung Yoon, winner of the Wieniawski Competition. They played together at many festivals in Europe. "In the

duet, they have created a universe that has totally preoccupied the minds of the audience," wrote a critic after one of them.

He has appeared at Chopin Festival in Duszniki-Zdrój, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, International Conservatoire Week in Petersburg, Osorske Glazbene Večeri in Croatia, Grieg in Bergen, played in 18 countries and music halls such as Carnegie Hall Stern Auditorium, Berliner Philharmonic Chamber Hall and many others.

Marcin Sikorski graduated from the Academy of Music Katowice, Poland as a student of Maria Sz wajger-Ku łakowska. He is an Associate Professor in chamber music at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz and collaborates regularly with Central Conservatory in Beijing. He took part in masterclasses by Isaac Stern, Leon Fleisher, Bruno Canino, Emanuel Ax, Erica Frieser, and the members of the LaSalle, Juilliard, Emerson, and Guarneri Quartets.

He is a winner of chamber music competitions in Paris and Gdańsk and was a laureate in Pörtlach, Vercelli, and Kraków. As a collaborative pianist he won awards at Szymanowski International Violin Competition, Tansman International Competition in Łódź, Wieniawski Competition in Poznań and Khachaturian Violin Competition in Yerevan. He was an official pianist of the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition in Hannover, the Britten Violin Competition in London, the Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poznań (four times), Szymanowski Competition in Katowice and the International Violin Competition in Toruń.

The CD from the 2006 Wieniawski Competition with 1st prize winner – Agata Sz ymczewska was awarded the „FRYDERYK” Prize.

He recorded 6 CDs with chamber music of Schumann, Brahms, Franck, Richard Strauss, Ravel, Prokofiev, Schnittke, Shostakovich, Zarebski, Lutoslawski and appeared on more than 20 other CDs. He made several TV and radio recordings.