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Cover Amedeo Modigliani, *Gypsy Woman with Baby* (detail), 1919, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Chester Dale Collection

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76TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

MARCH 11, 2018 / NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART





Janoska Ensemble. Photo by Julia Wesely

Program

Janoska Ensemble

Ondrej Janoska, violin

Roman Janoska, violin

František Janoska, piano

Julius Darvas, double bass

MARCH 11, 2018 / 3:30

WEST BUILDING, WEST GARDEN COURT

Johann Strauss II (1825–1899) / Boris Fomin (1900–1948)

Arr. František Janoska

“Die Fledermaus Overture à la Janoska”

Overture of the operetta *Die Fledermaus*

“Those Were the Days” (Dorogoi dlinnoju,

Le temps des fleurs, Den langen Weg entlang)

Fritz Kreisler (1875–1962) / Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

Arr. František Janoska

“Love’s Sorrow”

František Janoska (b. 1986)

“Musette pour Fritz”

(Homage for Fritz Kreisler)

Jules Massenet (1842–1912)

Arr. František Janoska

“Thaïs Meditation”

Meditation from the opera *Thaïs*

Georges Bizet (1838–1875) / Franz Waxman (1906–1967)

Arr. František Janoska

Carmen Fantasie

Intermission

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)

Arr. František Janoska

“Adiós Nonino”

Roman Janoska (b. 1989)

“Melodie for Melody”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) / František Janoska

Arr. František Janoska

“Rumba for Amadeus”

Piano Concerto no. 20 in D Minor, KV466, Allegro, Main Theme

Pablo de Sarasate (1844–1908) / Serbian Traditional

Arr. František Janoska

“Tarantella vs. Niška Banja”

Introduction et Tarantella, op. 43 / Niška Banja

Niccolò Paganini (1782–1840)

Arr. František Janoska

“Paganinoska”

Caprice no. 24

The Musicians

The four musicians of the Janoska Ensemble have developed a vision for the modern interpretation of works with their “Janoska Style” that is both virtuosic and profoundly personal. United by their family ties and always rooted in classical music, their repertoire ranges from popular classics to their own compositions and unique arrangements of jazz, pop, and world music.

Having frequently collaborated on projects over the years, the brothers Ondrej, Roman, and František Janoska and their brother-in-law, Julius Darvas, have focused their artistic energies on the Janoska Ensemble since 2013. They instantly garnered critical acclaim with their unprecedented arrangements and improvisational ingenuity, performing diverse programs on three continents. The ensemble’s debut CD, which features a fresh take on works by Strauss, Kreisler, Paganini, Mozart, and Waxman, as well as their own compositions, was greeted with enthusiasm when it was released in May 2016 at the Konzerthaus, Vienna. The Janoska Ensemble received its first gold record in September 2017 for its album *Janoska Style* (Deutsche Grammophon), and is presently on its first US tour, performing a program based on this release.

The Janoska Ensemble has performed at the Seoul Arts Center, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Prinzregententheater Munich, Yehudi Menuhin Festival Gstaad, and the Istanbul Festival; toured Korea; and presented a New Year’s Eve gala performance — “The Big Mulatság” — at Vienna’s Konzerthaus. The group has also performed with the Vienna Symphony under the banner “Janoska Ensemble goes Symphonic.”

The Janoska brothers and Julius Darvas come from music-making families — the Janoskas from six generations of musicians and Darvas from three generations of double bass players. Ondrej Janoska, an alumnus of Boris Kuschnir’s renowned violin class, displayed his skills as a soloist from a young age with various orchestras and played first violin in the Vienna State Opera Orchestra/Vienna Philharmonic. His younger brother Roman Janoska, who also received training in classical music from teachers such as Pavel Vernikov, made a name for himself as a jazz violinist in various ensembles, including the Vienna Art Orchestra. František Janoska is both a pianist and sought-after arranger and composer in stylistically diverse contexts. He is a long-standing member of the Roby Lakatos Ensemble and musical director of Erwin Schrott’s Rojotango Tour; annually he takes part in the Project Hollywood in Vienna as a solo pianist. Double bassist Julius Darvas was born into a musically eminent Hungarian family and has been a member of the Stage Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera since 2001. He is a regular substitute for the Vienna Philharmonic and has made a name for himself as a jazz bassist.

Program Notes

What is Janoska Style? Steeped in classical music since childhood, the ensemble draws on instrumental traditions passed from father to son. Yet, it is unlikely that any earlier generation could so uniquely and fluidly combine the classical canon with present-day music. Each member of the group is an award-winning virtuoso in his own right; together they form a chamber “Dream Team.” As evident on their recordings, they are equally at home riffing on Paganini with dueling violins, mixing czardas and Balkan folk with a Strauss waltz, or composing an original rumba à la Mozart. Their interpretations trace each work back to its source of inspiration, yet make each piece thoroughly modern. “Our challenge is to create something the original composer would be proud of,” says František, who does the arranging for the group. “Artistic license is very important to us in all the pieces we play,” Roman says. “It allows us to continuously create new versions, and that is what constitutes Janoska Style.” Adds Julius, “We arrange and compose music ourselves and on our own terms. None of our concerts are ever the same. They are a string of spontaneous reactions.”

Grammy-winning Hollywood composer Lalo Schifrin noted, “As one of the most original groups of highly talented musicians, the Janoska Ensemble is unique in its interpretation of classical music, jazz, Latin, and other genres. The four musicians’ inspiration is inexhaustible.” The *Salzburger Nachrichten* wrote, “They play with stupendous musicality, racing along with virtuosity virtually off the cuff, and the arrangements alone are stunningly refined.”

Among the selections on today’s concert: “Die Fledermaus Overture à la Janoska” takes Strauss’s themes in a variety of stylistic directions. “Musette pour Fritz” honors Fritz Kreisler, using its basic structure to produce a minor-key musette with room to improvise. “Paganinoska” imagines what Paganini might have written today and becomes a musical face-off between Ondrej performing the music as written and Roman, a consummate jazz violinist, with an extemporaneous response. “Melodie for Melody,” composed for Roman’s daughter, allows the violins to sing, and “Rumba for Amadeus” is František’s paeon to his son and the man he’s named after—Amadeus Mozart. The piece uses the Piano Concerto no. 20 in D Minor as the jumping off point for a thrilling rumba pulsing with Latin rhythms. “Adiós Nonino,” written by Astor Piazzolla for his father, is an appropriate and emotional number for an ensemble in which family and music tradition are so closely entwined.

No wonder Andreas Großbauer, chairman of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, raves: “The Janoska Ensemble has achieved something very special. The four musicians... have created their own unmistakable sound made up of great virtuosity, a literally inexhaustible wealth of musical ideas, and bewitchingly mellow sonorities. It is with apparent effortless that they blend these different styles and genres to produce a heartwarming and refreshing style. A true feast for the ears!”

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Sixth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place in the West Building, West Garden Court.

—
The Canales Project

Hear Her Song

A celebration of the choices of extraordinary women

March 18, 3:30

—
Benedetto Lupo, piano

Featuring solo piano works by Debussy

Celebrating *Cézanne Portraits*

March 25, 3:30

—
The 6821 Quintet

Music by Michael Djupstrom,

Mamiko Hirai, and Kunihiko Murai

Presented in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Ryuji Ueno Foundation

March 26, 12:10

East Building Auditorium

—
Richard Stoltzman, clarinet

Mika Stoltzman, marimba

Duo Cantando

April 1, 3:30

Music by Bill Douglas, Chick Corea,

Toru Takemitsu, and John Zorn

Heinavanker Ensemble

Featuring ancient Estonian songs and folk hymns

Celebrating *Michel Sittow: Estonian Painter at the Courts of Renaissance Europe*

April 8, 3:30

—
Fretwork

Featuring the music of Alexander Goehr and J.S. Bach

April 15, 3:30

—
Inscape Chamber Orchestra

Saint-Saëns, *Carnival of the Animals*, with new verses by Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Mahler, Symphony no. 4, chamber version

April 22, 3:30

—
The Westerlies

The Songs We Sang: American Vocal Music of the 20th Century

April 29, 3:30

—
Julia Bullock, soprano

John Arida, piano

May 6, 3:30

—
Ranky Tanky

Celebrating *Outliers and American Vanguard Art*

May 13, 3:30

—
Christina and Michelle Naughton

Music by Mozart, Schubert, Bolcom, Bach/Kurtág, Debussy, Chopin, and Lutosławski

May 20, 3:30