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## **Stankov Ensemble**

**Vania Vatrlova – Stankov - Voice**

**Ivo Stankov – Violin**

**Present**

## **Voice / Violin**

**Duo programme –**

**“The voice and violin collaboration - a fusion of Classical, Contemporary, Jazz, and World Music”**

## **Voice / Violin / Piano**

**Trio programme –**

**“ENCORE! Favourite Spanish and French encores”**

## **Clarinet / Voice / Violin / Piano**

**Quartet programme**

The acclaimed Bulgarian ensemble presents a delightful mixture of the favourite master pieces of the Romantic period, with some fascinating Contemporary, Jazz, and World music works of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A third generation of musicians, the highly talented, young and exuberant members of the Stankov family have wowed audiences across the world with their thrilling performances in major venues such as Royal Albert Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Glasgow Concert Hall, Wigmore Hall, RAI Amsterdam, to name a few, and have recorded and performed for the BBC, Spanish and Bulgarian National TV and Radio.

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## Voice / Violin - Duo programme

### “The voice and violin collaboration - a fusion of Classical, Contemporary, Jazz, and World Music”

Gustav Holst (1874- 1934)	Four Songs for voice and violin
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)	Along the Field
Arthur Bliss (1891 - 1975)	Sea love
Darius Milhaud (1892 - 1974)	Quatre poemes de Cautille
Rebecca Clarke (1886 - 1979)	Three Old English Songs
Boris Blacher (1903 - 1975)	Francesca Da Rimini
Alan Hovhaness (1911 - 2000)	Hercules, op.56
Hector Villa-Lobos (1887 - 1959)	Suite for voice and violin
Martin Georgiev (1983 - )	Three songs on poems by Dora Gabe

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### Programme description

The programme presents the voice and the violin as duo partners featured in this unusual and interesting combination. It has worked very well with audiences in large and small venues as it explores the partnership between the voice and the violin in a unique and distinctive way. The programme is a mixture of Classical, Contemporary, Jazz and World music styles. It features the idea of the evolution of views and music languages throughout the period of the end of 19<sup>th</sup> Century through 20<sup>th</sup> Century and nowadays. It takes the listener on a journey of many emotions and characters - from Holst's music, influenced by the Greek astrology and mythology, through Rebeca Clarke's (who is the most renowned English female composer) witty and humorous Folk Songs, to Villa-Lobos's Brazilian rhythms and jazzy harmonies. At the opposite spectrum of the musical palette, the work "Hercules" is featured in which the simplistic style of Alan Hovhaness (who is a "spiritual minimalist" and a pioneer of the East-West Fusion) is put in evidence. In addition, the programme includes Boris Blacher's dazzling work "Francesca Di Rimini", and cycles of songs from Vaughan-Williams, Arthur Bliss and Darius Milhaud. The programme furthermore includes a work especially written for Stankov Ensemble by the composer Martin Georgiev on a Bulgarian theme.

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## Voice / Violin / Piano - Trio programme

The Stankov Ensemble presents in addition a programme in combination with piano featuring some of the most well – known pieces from the Spanish and French composers of the romantic period, with title:

### “ENCORE! Favourite Spanish and French encores”

Manuel de Falla (1876 - 1946) Soprano/ piano	Siete canciones populares Españolas
Manuel de Falla (1876 - 1946) Violin/piano	Danza Española, from the opera “La Vida Breve”
Moreno Torroba (1891 -1982) Soprano/ piano	La Marchenera
Claude Debussy - Piano solo	Fireworks
Charles Gounod (1818-1893) Soprano/piano	Faust - Jewel’s Song
Charles Gounod (1818-1893) Soprano/violin/piano	Sérénade (text by Victor Hugo)
Maurice Ravel (1875 –1937) Violin/ piano	Tzigane Fantasie de concert
George Bizet (1838 – 1875) Soprano/ piano	Micaela’s aria from the opera Carmen
Isaak Albeniz (1860-1909) Piano solo	Sevilla, from Suite España
Jules Massenet (1842 - 1912) Violin/piano	Meditation, from the opera “Thais”
Emmanuel A. Chabrier (1841-1894) Soprano/violin/piano	Suite España, arr. by Simon Kent

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## Clarinet / Voice / Violin / Piano - Quartet programme

Stankov Ensemble have teamed up with one of the most prominent Spanish soloists - the clarinetist **Venancio Ruis Marti**, and are presenting together a fascinating programme featuring duos, trios and quartets from all epochs and styles:

Mozart, W. A.	Parto! Ma tu ben mio K. 621
Franz Schubert	Schon lacht der holde Frühling KV 580
Louis Spohr	Der Hirt auf dem Felsen Op. 129
Aram Khachaturian	Sechs Deutsche Lieder Op. 103
Igor Stravinsky	Trío
Arnold Cooke	The Soldier’s Tale
Kaliwoda J. W.	Three Songs for the Innocence
Morten Lauridsen	Heimathlied Op. 117
Bella Bartok	Cinco canciones sobre García Lorca
	Contrast

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## Biographical details

### Vania Vatrlova – Stankov – Soprano



The Bulgarian Soprano is a recipient of numerous awards, including an Award from the Spanish Ministry of Education and the Donizetti Award from the Welsh National Opera School for two consecutive years.

She graduated in Bulgaria and Spain in both violin and singing with the highest qualifications, was appointed co-principal violin at the City of Elche Chamber Orchestra where she played as soloist on many occasions, but relinquished her position in the orchestra in order to fully pursue her singing career. Vania has done Master Classes with Renata Scottò, Montserrat Caballé and Mirella Freni, amongst others.

She has performed recitals at many International Festivals, including Belcanto Dordrecht (Holland), Varna Summer, Sofia Summer Days, and Peralada, Barcelona. Vania has performed the mainstream oratorio repertoire with orchestras such as the Sofia Philharmonic, London Gala and Valencia Baroque, and has worked under the baton of Alexander Kantorov, Alex Ingram and Georgio Leardini, to name but a few.

On the opera stage she has appeared in the title roles as Traviata, Rusalka and Ana Bolena with WNOS, Royal Opera School, Madrid and also took part in the Tower of London Festival's production of Ana Bolena (in the title role), with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Vania has recorded for the major Bulgarian and Spanish Television and Radio Channels (BNR, RTVE, Antena 3, Canal 9, TV3). As well as her numerous recordings for TV and Radio Vania recorded a CD entitled Misterio de Elche (Mystery of Elche) with early music, declared by UNESCO as Patrimony of the Humanity Treasure. She also recently recorded her debut CD of "Operatic Favorites", with the Sofia Symphony Orchestra.

#### Press reviews:

**"...On the compelling evidence of this debut recording, there may indeed be some seductive delights to anticipate from this comely young soprano in the very near future..."**

Mark Thomas Ketterson, Concertonet, review of CD "Operatic Favourites"  
(January, 2009)

**"...She seems to have a lyric voice, but one which has a richness and depth to it... Possibly the best overall piece of singing on the CD is in the opening of Signore ascolta from Turandot. Here Vatrlova-Stankov sounds a little like Caballé in the role."** Robert Hugill, Music and Vision, review of CD "Operatic Favourites" (January, 2009)

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## Ivo Stankov – Violin



Described as a “*Stunning virtuoso...*” (Evening Herald), Ivo has established himself as one of Bulgaria’s leading artists of his generation. He has performed extensively as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral leader through the UK, Europe and Canada, in venues such as Royal Albert Hall (where he made his concerto debut with fourteen years of age with the New English Orchestra), Bridgewater Hall, Glasgow Concert Hall, the RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam, to name a few. He has performed in Bulgaria National Hall under the patronage of the Bulgarian president, with a subsequent broadcast on the national

TV and Radio, and made his debut under the critics acclaim at the Wigmore Hall. As a recitalist, he also has performed at all the major London venues. Ivo completed his Postgraduate studies with Erich Gruenberg at the Royal Academy of Music where he was awarded a full scholarship from Flame Trust. Since settling in the UK, he has recorded for television and on CD. He has appeared at International Festivals, including Varna and Sofia Summer, Flanders Festival Ghent and Milano-Torino (MITO). He is the leader of a number of chamber ensembles, including Schomberg String Quartet (featured in TV Channel 4 “Operatunity – The Winners” Nationwide tour), London Schubert Players and London String Quartet. Ivo has collaborated with artists such as Sir Cliff Richard and Mark Knopfler. He is Artistic Director of the London Festival of Bulgarian Culture, which first edition will be held in 2010. He plays on 1787 Gagliano violin, kindly lent to him by the Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells.

**“I had the pleasure of playing with Ivo at a charity event in September 2009. Ivo's playing was excellent and he was a pleasure to work with...” Mark Knopfler**

### **Press reviews:**

**“...Exceptionally interesting programme...a really good performance... Bulgarian Rhapsody Vardar brought the recital to a close in commanding style...”**

Robert Matthew-Walker, Musical Opinion, Wigmore Hall Recital Debut, 2/06/06

**“...the performance of Janacek's violin sonata excellently reflected the music's restless and wayward moods...Falla's Spanish dance was spirited...the long unaccompanied solo of Ravel's Tzigane was Stankov's best playing of the evening, projecting considerable intensity whilst also suggesting something of Gypsy spontaneity.”**

Max Harrison, Musical Opinion, Wigmore Hall Recital, 19/12/07

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## Lachezar Stankov – Piano



Lachezar was born in Varna (Bulgaria). He started to learn piano at the age of nine. He showed a very rapid progress and one year later he was accepted at the *Dobri Hristov* College of Music and Arts, where he completed his high school education with specialist music curriculum.

He is a winner of many national and international prizes and awards. He won the Second Prize in the National Competition *Dimitar Nenov* in Bulgaria (1999), Third Prize in the International Competition *Pro Arte* in Bucharest, Romania (2000), the Grand Prix of the Competition for Czech and Slovak Music

in Prague (2003) and the Presto National Scholarship Award (2002).

Lachezar made his concert debut at the age of twelve in Holland, where he played in Utrecht and at the RAI Centre in Amsterdam. Since then he has played in many venues in Bulgaria and in Europe, including the Varna Festival Hall and the Bulgarian Embassy Hall in Prague and participated at the Varna Summer International Music Festival. At sixteen years of age he was selected to participate in series of concerts with the Varna Philharmonic Orchestra, and performed the Grieg piano concerto No.1, under the critics acclaim. This led to a subsequent invitation the following year to perform Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, with the Varna and the Shumen Philharmonic Orchestras.

In 2005, Lachezar was awarded the ABRSM Full Scholarship for overseas students, to study at the Royal College of Music with Professor Andrew Ball, where he recently completed his Undergraduate Course. Since settling in London, he has played many solo and chamber music recitals in the UK and abroad and recently performed Rachmaninov's "Variations on a theme of Paganini", with the North London Orchestra.

## Venancio Ruis Marti - Clarinet



Spanish professor, clarinetist and conductor Venancio Rius is a passionate communicator whose stimulating ideas and enthusiastic creative music-making have captivated international audiences and musicians alike. Hailed by the press as a brilliant artist and virtuoso clarinetist with a consummate musicianship, he is considered one of the most successful professors and performers of today. His teaching has produced first prize winners in some of the most important international competitions.

Venancio Rius has performed in Austria, China, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Korea, Luxemburg, Mexico, Oman, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. He has played premieres of Aaron Copland, Martin Kutnowski, Manuel Garcia-Morante, Jose Alama, Adolfo Villalonga and Juan Pons. He has

played with Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonie der Nationen, City of Ibiza Symphony Orchestra, Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra, London Schubert String Orchestra and Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

As a performer he was recognized by the 1995 INAEM National Music Competition, the 1995 Valencia Cultural Council Competition, the 1995 USC Concerto Competition and the Buffet North American Clarinet Competition. He was also a recipient of the Honor Prize from the Valencia Superior Conservatory of Music, the Gordon & Lillian Hardy Award, the Bruce Zalkind Memorial Prize and awarded as the Most Distinguished Professor and Performer at the 2007 China International Clarinet Festival.

He has been associate professor at the University of Southern California, professor at the Valencia, Murcia, Vall d'Uixó, Liria and Ibiza Conservatories, as well as professor of the 7th Lisbon International Clarinet Meeting and 2004 Benidorm International Music Festival. He has presented master classes in Europe, China, Korea, Oman and the United States, including at the University of Southern California, the National Conservatory of Lisbon, Beijing Central Conservatory, China Conservatory, American & British Academy and The Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

He has received advice and collaborated with many of today's most prominent professors and conductors. He studied conducting with Eduard Cifre and Daniel Lewis, and attended master-classes with David Hoose, Jorge Mester, Murry Sidlin and at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Corwin Seminars with Franz Welser-Möst.

In 2007 and 2008 he was Conductor and Artistic advisor for the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra. He has been invited by Buffet Crampon Beijing for the 2008 China Artist Tour, where Mr. Rius's appearances included giving master classes, recitals, conducting and as jury for the Shanghai Spring International Music Competition.

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## **Venue suitability**

The Stankov Ensemble is performing as a duo (voice/violin) or trio (voice/violin/piano) in medium to large size concert venues as well as performing in smaller venues. The duo programme – voice/violin is particularly suitable for smaller venues and in- house concerts. Some of the advantages are the smaller required platform space and avoiding the additional expenses for piano hire.

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## **Contact Us**

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