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BRILLIANT
CLASSICS

Andrea Padova

plays Lo Muscio



FEATURING
Steve Hackett



Marco Lo Muscio (b.1971)

Three American Preludes

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Blue Prelude | 2'14 |
| 2. Night Song | 5'30 |
| 3. Blue Ostinato | |
| "Homage to Jarrett" | 5'38 |

Two Ricercari

- | | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 4. Ricercare | |
| "The cathedral of Pienza" | 3'19 |
| 5. Ricercare Cromatico | |
| "The cathedral of Orvieto" | 3'14 |
| 6. In Memoriam | 4'02 |
| 7. Gymnopédie No.0 | |
| "Homage to Satie" | 6'06 |

8. Prelude in Memory of Debussy

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| "La Lune Blanche" | 5'53 |
| 9. Steve Hackett: Horizons | |
| (arrangements by Lo Muscio) | 2'27 |
| 10. Meditation on Horizons | |
| "Homage to Steve Hackett" | 4'18 |

Medieval Melodies

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 11. "Théodon's Meditation" | 1'45 |
| 12. "The Knights of Rohan" | 2'50 |
| 13. Gandalf and Galadriel | 5'10 |
| 14. "The Book of a Vampire" | |
| Homage to Bram Stoker | 6'00 |
| 15. Vocalise No.1 "To my mother" | 2'51 |

Andrea Padova *piano*

Featuring

Steve Hackett Classical *guitar* (13), *electric guitar* (15)

Marco Lo Muscio *piano* (13 & 14)

"I have known Marco for many years and we share a passion for composition, piano, arts and for Pienza, a town in Tuscany where you always wait for something magical to happen. Marco's music is written in many different styles and speaks very directly from the heart. We had a good time making these recordings. I hope you enjoy listening."

Andrea Padova

"...These pieces of Marco Lo Muscio would make fine inclusions in recital programmes – all are intensely inventive, and also listenable with plenty of interest for the listener whether expert or not."

David Dewar – Organists Review

Three American Preludes 2001-2009

"Blue Prelude" and "Night Song" were the first piano pieces written by Lo Muscio in 2001. The first one is a rhythmic virtuoso piece with harmonies and scales that are influenced by the Blues style. The second piece is a "Nocture" divided in two parts: the first part is formed with an ostinato bass line underlying a cantabile melody. The second part is a lyrical adagio with rich jazz harmonies in the style of Bill Evans. The last piece of the triptych, Blue Ostinato, (written in 2009) is the longest of the set. The piece is divided into two parts and is a homage to Keith Jarrett. The first ostinato starts after a short melody in the right hand; it is written in a Progressive Rock style and goes directly into the second ostinato that is much more jazzy and virtuoso; the piece ends with several arpeggios in a great crescendo.

Two Ricercari 2015-2019

A totally different style from the American Preludes, the two Ricercari were originally written for organ and are now in new arrangement for piano. These pieces are a homage to the renaissance-era counterpoint and are inspired by the stateliness and perfection of the architectures of two of the most stunning Italian cathedrals: Pienza (in Tuscany) and Orvieto (in Umbria).

In Memoriam 2018

Was written in loving memory of Lo Muscio's father. The piece is in the A-B-A form with two very moving melodies of great lyricism. The composition ends with the first melody that returns in the form of melodic arpeggios.

Gymnopédie No.0 "Homage to Satie" 2008

The three Gymnopédies of Erik Satie are the most popular pieces of the French composer inspired by the ancient Spartan feast of the Gymnopedias; this is Lo Muscio's tribute to Satie and his compositions. After a short introduction with accelerating semiquavers the composition starts with the typical alternating progression of two chords in the left hand on which develop all the lyrical melodies in tonic and dominant. The Gymnopédie ends with charming suspended arpeggios and chords.

Prelude in Memory of Debussy 'La Lune Blanche' 2017

This is a second tribute to Claude Debussy, another one of Lo Muscio's most beloved French composers. The piece was commissioned by Andrea Padova for the celebration of the centenary of the death of Debussy (1918-2018) and played in February 2018 at the Parma conservatory. The prelude also includes the name of D.E.B.U.S.S.Y. in the Anglo-Saxon notation: Re-Mi-Sib-Sol-Mi-Mi-Re and takes the inspiration from a poem of Verlaine "La lune blanche". Many whole tone scales, impressionistic harmonies and soft nuances are used by Lo Muscio in combination with his own style.

Since their first meeting in Italy in 2008, Lo Muscio has collaborated with Steve Hackett (the former guitarist of GENESIS). Lo Muscio worked hard writing many organ and piano transcriptions of English Progressive Rock music including many guitar pieces by Steve Hackett. This work (a second parallel career to that of a classical musician) led Lo Muscio to collaborate not only with Steve Hackett but

also with his brother John Hackett, David Jackson (Van Der Graaf Generator) and David Cross (King Crimson). "**Horizons**" is a piece written by Hackett in 1972 for the Genesis album "Foxtrot". It is a solo classical guitar piece in homage to the Prelude for cello solo (BWV1007) by Johann Sebastian Bach. This was one of the first transcriptions made by Lo Muscio in 2001.

Meditation on Horizons "Homage to Steve Hackett" 2009, is clearly a composition in homage to "Horizons" by Hackett. The entire piece is written in a rhapsodic style with variations and is based on the Spanish "Habanera" rhythm loved very much by Steve Hackett.

Medieval Melodies 2009

Lo Muscio has always been interested in and passionate about literature and poetry; the next pieces come from this strong passion. Always fascinated by the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, Lo Muscio wrote the two "Medieval Melodies" in 2009. The first one, "Théoden's Meditation", is a soft and gentle meditation on a medieval theme. The second one, "The Knights of Rohan", is a strongly rhythmic piece in the form of a medieval chanson.

"Gandalf and Galadriel" 2008-2010

The next pieces are a homage to two of the most important characters of the "Lord of the Rings" written in collaboration by Lo Muscio and Hackett. The first part, "Gandalf", is a solo piano piece that starts and ends with the arpeggios and harmonies of the beginning of the second part. Lo Muscio uses the name of G.A.N.D.A.L.F. in the Anglo-Saxon notation (Sol-La-Sol-Re-La-Mi-Fa) to create a fugato (three voices) and a canon that directly brings in the second section, "Galadriel". In this second piece, Hackett's classical guitar is in dialogue with Lo Muscio's piano accompanied by a beautiful impressionistic atmosphere and delicate harmonies.

“The Book of a Vampire” Homage to Bram Stoker 2018

After listening to the bright pieces inspired by Tolkien we now listen to a very dark piece, divided into several parts (The Night in the Castle – Harker and Dracula – Dracula’s memories – Mina Murray and Dracula – Towards England – The death of Dracula) and inspired by Bram Stoker’s “Dracula”. Here, Lo Muscio also uses the words V.A.M.P.I.R.E. and D.R.A.C.U.L.A. in the Anglo-Saxon notation (La-La-Fa-Si-Si-Re-Mi; Re-Re-La-Do-Sol-Mi-La). The core of the composition is a chromatic fugato that brings in the virtuoso final part with arpeggios and themes in octaves in the left hand. The Prelude ends in B minor with chords in diminuendo.

Vocalise No.1 “To my mother” 2012

Lo Muscio has written six Vocalises and this last piece of the disk is the first one dedicated to his mother. In this arrangement the melancholy and tender melody is played by Steve Hackett on the electric guitar, while the chordal accompaniment is played with four hands by Andrea Padova and Marco Lo Muscio.

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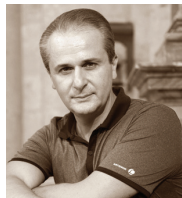


Andrea Padova first achieved critical attention when he won the First Prize at the J.S.Bach International Piano Competition in 1995. Since then has concertized throughout the world, appearing in such major venues as Carnegie Hall in New York, Washington Performing Arts Society, Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall, Gasteig in Munich, Granada Festival, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Accademia di S.Cecilia in Rome, Teatro Massimo in Palermo. He has been called “one of the most interesting figures of contemporary piano scene” by the magazine *Insound* that in

2008 awarded him as best Italian pianist and complete interpreters by the authoritative musicologist Harold C. Schonberg (who acknowledged him “a strong personality, conviction, freedom, style”). Andrea Padova is as well at ease as an interpreter of the classical and romantic repertoire, his repertoire includes sixty concertos for piano and orchestra (from Bach’s complete concertos to the twentieth century). In addition he works as an interpreter in the field of contemporary music collaborating with composers such as Pierre Boulez, Goffredo Petrassi, Franco Donatoni and Leonard Bernstein, and he is himself a composer awarded in many international competitions. Andrea Padova records for the labels Stradivarius, Ewe and Limen. His recording of Bach’s *Fantasias* was considered by the magazine “CD Classics” as one of the best piano CDs of 1997, together with Schiff and Perahia. In 2005 his CD dedicated to Ferruccio Busoni received acknowledgements, between the others, by the authoritative review “Gramophone” that compared him to Arthur Rubinstein for the quality of his sound.

His long-awaited cd with Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*, recorded during his recent tour in Japan, was recently published by EWE Records for Asia and Stradivarius in the rest of the world, and has already received enthusiastic approval. About his live performance of this masterpiece, the *Washington Post* wrote that he “conveys the sense of successfully exceeding the limits of human possibility.”

www.andreapadova.com



Marco lo Muscio is one of the most versatile musicians of his generation: organist, pianist and composer. Marco's music had been played world wide (Europe, Russia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, USA) by renowned musicians such as Christopher Herrick, Thomas Trotter, Kevin Bowyer, David Briggs, John Scott, Roger Saver, Stephen Farr, Andrea Padova, Alessandro Bianchi, Massimo Nosetti, Stephen Tharp, Carson Cooman, Colin Walsh, Carol Williams, Alina Rotaru, Franz

Hauk, Willibald Guggenmos, Edouard Oganessian, Patrick Ayrton, John Hackett, Chris Jarret, Jean-Paul Imbert, etc.. He received also new commissions by renowned musicians and important institutions such as the Harvard University. He graduated in piano with full honours "Cum Laude" at "Licinio Refice" academy of music and later studied for three years with the great pianist Sergio Fiorentino attaining the Diploma of Advanced Studies with full honours at the academy "Bartolomeo Cristofori". He also graduated in Pedagogy "Cum Laude" in the University of "Rome Tre" and in organ with prof. James Edward Goettsche. He has given more than 750 concerts in Europe, Russia and USA as part of organ and piano festivals at important venues such as: Notre Dame de Paris, King's College, Queens' College and St. John's College in Cambridge; Merton, Queen's and Exeter College in Oxford; Windsor Castle – St. George's Chapel (Queen's residence) in the UK. Shostakovich Great Hall and Glinka Capella in St. Petersburg; International Music Arts Centre (Svetlanov Hall – "House of Music"), Gnessin Academy, Glinka Museum, Baptist and Catholic Cathedral in Moscow. New York (St. Thomas Church, Central Synagogue in Manhattan, e Barnard College), Boston, Washington, Chicago; Westminster Cathedral and Abbey, Temple Church and St. Paul's Cathedral in London and many other venues. The CDs of Marco were broadcasted on Vatican Radio, BBC 3, TV Russia, BR Klassik. In 2013 he began recording for the famous British label "Priory Records" on the "Great European Organs Series". Also with Priory Records, Kevin Bawyer recorded a CD dedicated to organ works by Marco Lo Muscio.

www.marcolomuscio.com



Lo Muscio with Steve Hackett and David Cross
after his concert in Westminster Abbey (2018)



*Special Thanks to:
Andrea Padova
Steve Hackett
Fabio Ferri*

This album is dedicated to my mom, Lina.

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