



## **RODION TOLMACHEV**

**Rodion Tolmachev**, a soloist of the Fagot group to the Symphony Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre. Saint-Petersburg Conservatoire graduate (class of Professor, People's Artist of Russia Kirill Sokolov), he joined the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre in 1997 at his student days. At the same time he continued his education at the High Musical School of Hannover, Germany, in Professor Dag Jensen's master classes. In 2007, Rodion took post-graduate courses both in the Saint-Petersburg Conservatoire and the High Musical School of Hannover. Even as a student of the Saint-Petersburg Conservatoire he won in the "Gartow Stiftung" International German Charity Foundation Competition and the "Yamaha" Contest. In 2001 Rodion became the Laureate of the European Cultural Foundation (Strasbourg, France). His background includes a great number of honorary awards and prizes, among them the 1st prize in the Republic Wind Instruments Competition (Tashkent, 1995); the 1st prize in the "Shore of Hope" Contest (Albena, Bulgaria, 1998); the 1st prize in the Rimsky-Korsakov Wind Instruments All-Russian Competition (Saint-Petersburg, 2000); the 3rd prize in the ARD International Quintet Contest (Munich, Germany, 2001); the Grand Prize in the JDR International Wind Instruments Competition (Tokyo, Japan, 2007); the 1st prize in the International Fagot Contest (Provo, Utah, USA, 2008). Rodion Tolmachev has extensively toured as a soloist with the Mariinsky Orchestra and others Saint-Petersburg ensembles. Besides he plays with the Woodwind Quintet of the Mariinsky Theatre. In 2007 and 2008 he performed with the Hermitage Theatre Orchestra in the "Musical Olympus" Festival (Saint-Petersburg). Since 2010 Rodion is an invitee soloist of the United World Orchestra (conductor Valery Gergiev). In 2012, "Dobringen und Grimm" recorded a solo album of Rodion Tolmachev, namely fagot masterpieces of French composes. Two years later "Melodiya" released another album of the artist. Together with the Symphony Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre (conductor Ivan Stolbov) Rodion performs *Concerts for Bassoon* by Antonio Vivaldi, Carl Maria von Weber and André Jolivet.

## **RUSLAN MAMEDOV**

**Ruslan Mamedov**, a soloist of the Fagot group to the Symphony Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre. Graduated from the Musical college and the Volgograd Conservatoire named after P. Serebryakov, class of Associate Professor, People's Artist of Russia Anatoly Sokirko. Ruslan undertook further study in the Saint-Petersburg Conservatoire (class of Professor, People's Artist of Russia Kirill Sokolov). He continued in Munich with Lyndon Watts, leader and principal bassoonist of the

Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. Ruslan Mamedov is the winner of the awards of the South Russia Competition (Rostov-on-Don) and Rimsky-Korsakov International Competition (Saint-Petersburg). In 2000 he played with the Volgograd Academic Symphony Orchestra. In 2008 he joined the Fagot group of the Mariinsky Theatre. As an orchestra artist Ruslan performs in chamber music concerts. Thus, in May 2014 his quintet offered a programme varied from Joseph Haydn to Nino Rota. In addition to classical fagot Ruslan also masters contra-fagotto. His performances are always a tremendous success in the Halls of Saint-Petersburg Conservatoire (for example, during the "International Conservatoire Week" Festival), the Saint-Petersburg House of Music, both the Grand and Rachmaninoff Halls of Moscow Conservatoire ("Double Reed" Festival). Together with the Symphony Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre Ruslan performs celebrated fagot *Concerts* by Henri Tomasi, André Jolivet, as well as *Double Bass Concerto* by Johann Baptist Vanhal (coupled with Rodion Tolmachev).

## **ANDREY SHAMIDANOV**

**Andrey Shamidanov** – a soloist of the Russian National Orchestra. As an invitee orchestra artist performs with the Moscow chamber orchestra "Musica Viva", the Orchestra of the Moscow Operetta Theatre, and also plays with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra. He was born in Moscow in 1985. Graduated from the Gnessin Moscow Special School of Music (classes of Gennadiy Shamin and Yaroslav Kostyrkin), Tchaikovsky Academic Music College at the Moscow State Conservatory, and finally Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory (both classes of People's Artist of Russia, Professor Valeriy Popov). Andrey attended master classes of Professor Klaus Thunemann, and the ones of the soloist and master of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra Lyndon Wadss. Andrey is the Winner of the International Competitions in Athens, Volgograd, Lvov, Moscow, Saint-Petersburg. He won the 1st prizes in the First Rimsky-Korsakov International Competition (Saint-Petersburg, 2005) and in the Fourth International Competition of Wind and Percussion Instruments, the Moscow Conservatoire, 2014. Andrey Shamidanov performed with many prominent Russian and European orchestras directed by Mikhail Pletnev, Kent Nagano, Teodor Currentzis, Alexander Rudin, Yuri Bashmet, Vladimir Jurowski, Alexander Lazarev, Alexander Vedernikov, Vasily Petrenko, Alan Gilbert, Patrick Summers, Nicola Luizotti, Sir Roger Norrington, Paavo Järvi, Alberto Zedda, Christopher Moulds, etc. As a fagot soloist of the Russian National Orchestra (maestro Mikhail Pletnev) he recorded *The Nine symphonies* by Beethoven (Deutsche Grammophon label). Andrey

Shamidanov has undertaken many tours. He participated in numerous international and Russian festivals. Within the Project of Russian-German Academy he took part in the Moscow Easter Festival of 2016



## CD annotation

A new album by the trio of Russian bassoonists Rodion Tolmachev, Ruslan Mamedov, Andrey Shamidanov of the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra and the Russian National Orchestra represents rare compositions from different national schools of the 20th century.

The album is opened with The Witches Frolic (also known as The Three Witches of the Night) by the British composer and conductor Sir Granville Bantock (1868-1946), the very fragment from a suite for bassoon trio was created in 1926 for the theatrical production of Shakespeare's Macbeth. The music is distinguished by ingenuity and contrasting moods, that way unleashing the creative potential and virtuoso possibilities of the musicians. Bantock was a professor of music at the University of Birmingham and director of the local Conservatoire. It was him who was at the origin of the famous Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Continuing the British musical tradition of the 20th century, the CD features a suite of diverse folk dances by Geoffrey Hartley (1906-1992). The syncopated rhythm of the Scottish Hornpipe dance is followed by a romantic waltz and a lively march. A native of Oxford, Hartley learned to play fagot when a child, practicing an antique instrument from his father's collection. He gave more than a hundred concerts in London and its outskirts. Hartley was concertmaster of the bassoon group at the Chelsea Opera House under the direction of renowned Sir Colin Davis.

The work of the outstanding Danish composer Carl Nielsen (1865-1931), who mastered different genres, is represented by rare miniatures for the bassoons – three pieces, Op. 11: the eccentric Doll's March, the whimsical Dance of the Lady's Maids, and the sarcastic Jumping Jack. Nielsen's music is distinguished by its ingenuity, Nordic character, and developed polyphony. Karl Nielsen is an undoubted founder of the modern Danish school of composition. His symphonies, chamber and vocal pieces represent a reference example for this genre of the 20th century.

Another masterpiece by Geoffrey Hartley - "Jack and Jill" Trio for three bassoons - was inspired by the English folk nursery rhyme from "The Tales of Mother Goose".

The album is topped up with music by the German composer and bassoonist Viktor Bruns (1904-1996). Viktor was born into a German

family on August 15, 1904, in a small town of Ollila (southeastern Finland) where his parents spent summer. They lived in St. Petersburg, so Viktor studied at the Petrograd State Conservatoire (later the Leningrad State Conservatoire) at the bassoon class of Alexander Vasiliev from 1924 to 1927, and the composition class of Vladimir Shcherbakov from 1927 to 1931. From 1927 to 1938 Viktor Bruns was a bassoonist of the Kirov Opera and Ballet Theatre Orchestra (nowadays Mariinsky Theatre). Among the vast composing heritage for wind instruments a special place is occupied by the Trio (for tenor bassoon, bassoon, and contrabassoon), Op. 97. This is one of his later works dedicated to the English bassoonist and musicologist William Waterhouse (February 18, 1931 - November 5, 2007), who played with famous orchestras, was a member of the Melos ensemble and a professor at the Royal Northern College of Music.

The four parts of the Trio are notable for contrasting drama, vivid imagery, and distinctive rhythmic patterns. Bruns used to say that "musicians always want something melodic, just to be rhythmic and interesting." He indeed tried to please them. The composer passed away in 1996 before his last work, the Octet for Bassoons, Op. 99, was completed. Only a fragment of this masterpiece remains. Here's why the great attention is paid to his previous major work - the Trio, Op. 97, presented in this album.