



Zemtsov Viola Quartet

PAPINI

BOWEN

VON WEINZIERL

WERKMAN

MALCYS

ZEMTSOV

PIAZZOLLA

## GUIDO PAPINI (1846-1912)

*Quartet for four Violas*

1 *Moderato assai*, 2 *Allegro moderato*,  
3 *Andante sostenuto*, 4 *Allegretto con spirito*

Born in Camagiore, Guido Papini was an Italian violinist and composer who studied under a teacher named Giorgetti in Florence and made his debut there in 1860, performing Spohr's third violin concerto. He was subsequently leader of the City of Florence Quartet Society. In 1874 he made his London debut at the Musical Union where he was to appear frequently, also performing at concerts for the Philharmonic Society and at Crystal Palace. In 1876 he took part in the Padeloup concerts at Paris, and also at those of the Bordeaux Philharmonic. His compositions include a concerto for the violin and one for the cello, as well as romances, nocturnes and Feuilles d'album. His works for violin solo include Exercises du mecanisme and a Violin School, as well as several arrangements and transcriptions. He also edited a number of classical works, and is known as one of the earliest editors of Paganini's 24 caprices. In 1893 he became head of the violin department of the Royal Academy of Music in Dublin, but gave up the position in 1896 and returned to London where he lived as a teacher and prolific composer.

## YORK BOWEN (1884-1961)

*Fantasy Quartet op. 41 for four violas*

York Bowen was recognised as a prodigious talent at an early age and achieved considerable success as both a composer and concert pianist in his early career. Camille Saint-Saëns was so impressed at the 1903 premiere of Bowen's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 11 that he named him 'the finest of English composers', an opinion shared by many of Bowen's contemporaries. York Bowen preferred the tone quality of the viola to that of the violin, and he composed several works for the instrument. He played a part in assisting the great viola player Lionel Tertis in increasing the popularity of the viola as a solo instrument and frequently performed as Tertis's accompanist. Tertis premiered Bowen's Viola Concerto in C minor, Op. 25 in 1908. Bowen added considerably to the viola repertoire, his compositions including a fantasy and two sonatas for viola and piano, as well as the Fantasy Quartet for four violas recorded on this CD. Bowen was one of the first English composers to add original works to the modern viola repertoire, alongside his contemporaries Arnold Bax and Benjamin Dale.

## MAX VON WEINZIERL

(1841-1898)

*Nocturne (Nachtstück) op. 34 for four violas*

Originally from Bohemia, Max von Weinzierl spent most of his life in Vienna where he studied cello and composition at the Conservatory of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde. He worked mainly as a theatre director and choral conductor, and his compositions are largely of vocal works. He also spent some time in Salzburg, and his *Nachtstück* is dedicated to his friend Dr. Wenzel Sedlitzky who served as President of the Mozarteum during the late 1880s. Weinzierl's publisher insisted that he create a more commercial instrumentation of the *Nachtstück* for conventional string quartet, but the setting for four violas is the original version.

## ARNE WERKMAN (b. 1960)

*Quatre mouvements pour quatre altos op. 59*  
(written for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet)

1 *Sempre moderato*, 2 *Alla Marcia*,  
3 *Quasi largo*, 4 *Mosso, ma sempre giusto*

Arne Werkman was born in The Hague, Netherlands, and grew up in Geneva, Switzerland. He had his musical training at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève

and read musicology at the Université de Genève where he graduated with 'Music in Commercial Advertising'. He further developed with studies in composition with the late Tristan Keuris at the Utrecht Conservatory in the Netherlands. His music has been written for and performed by many outstanding musicians in the Netherlands as well as the USA, Russia, Italy, France, England, Switzerland and Germany. He took the initiative in 1992 to write three 'Intermezzi' which were performed in the presence of H.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands during the opening ceremony of parliament. His compositions are frequently broadcast on Dutch radio and many of his works have been recorded on CD. *Quatre Movements* was written for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet. The composer says about the piece that, 'a viola quartet offers a unique combination of range, compass and variety of tone suited to ensemble as well as solo playing. In these four short pieces both aspects alternate between a more rhythmic approach, such as the 'alla marcia' in the second movement and 'mosso, ma sempre giusto' in the last movement. In both parts the ensemble alternates with or accompanies solo material performed by one or two instruments. In the first movement, 'sempre moderato', the quartet is treated as a whole with distinctive motives of semiquavers

strolling through the four instruments. In the second movement, 'quasi largo' the quartet is singing as if it were one voice, in a measured pensive tranquillity.'

## ARVYDAS MALCYS (b.1957)

*Elegy for four violas*

(written for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet)

Arvydas Malcys (b.1957) graduated twice from the Lithuanian Academy of Music, obtaining diplomas both in cello playing and composition. Works by Arvydas Malcys have been showcased in Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Latvia, Russia, Germany, Italy, Finland, France, USA and elsewhere. Malcys is well acquainted with the special characteristics of instruments and especially strings, and as a result he is able to work with the widest range of expressive possibilities of individual instruments and their combinations, shaping them to serve as strongly-flavoured personalities, and indeed almost 'theatrical' characters. Alexander Zemtsov has performed Arvydas Malcys's Viola Concerto and has recorded his 'Narcyss' for Viola Solo. *Elegie for four violas* was specially written for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet.

## DANIIL ZEMTSOV (b. 1996)

*'The circle of diminished fifths' for four violas*

Daniil was born on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1996 in Moscow into a musical family. His musical education began officially at the age of six when his mother began to teach him piano. He started to have lessons on the viola at the age of ten. He joined the Whitgift School in London in 2007, participating in orchestras and chamber ensembles. Daniil later attended the junior department of the Royal Academy of Music where he continued his education on viola and piano. 'The circle of Diminished Fifths' is the name given to a piece that Daniil composed in 2012 as coursework for his GCSE in Music at the Whitgift School. Since 2014 Daniil has been studying viola and composition at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague.

The Circle of Diminished Fifths' (2012) is a short piece written for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet. The structure is through-composed and consists of two contrasting sections. It is evident that the main inspiration comes from the first two movements of the String Quartet No. 8 in C minor by Dmitri Shostakovich, particularly in the second section. The title is conveyed within the first few bars of the piece, where it is shown that 'the circle of diminished fifths' is in fact not a very big circle, spanning only an octave in

terms of pitch. Melodic material is based upon an exploitation of motivic ideas. The two sections are deliberately very different not only in terms of tempo but also in the ideas involved. The vigorous second section is shared between Shostakovich's rhythmic motif presented at the start and an original six-note idea which appears later. This motif is in fact a respelling of 'Daniil' (notated as D-A-G-B-B-E) based upon a system in which the white part of the keyboard represents the English alphabet. Although the nomenclature for notes stops at letter G, the alphabet continues nevertheless. This means that many letters will sound the same (for example, letters H, O and V sound the same as the note A). Although Shostakovich used a slightly different system, his 'DSCH' motif it can be heard in many of his works.

## ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992)

*Verano Porteño*

*Milonga del Angel*

*Muerte del Angel*

(arranged for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet by Evgeni Zemtsov, b. 1940)

Astor Piazzolla was the most famous Argentine tango composer, bandoneon player and arranger of the 20th century. His oeuvre revolutionised the traditional

tango into a new style termed 'tango nuevo', incorporating elements from jazz and classical music. A virtuoso bandoneonist, he regularly performed his own compositions with a variety of ensembles. The composer Evgeni Zemtsov (father of Mikhail and Alexander) arranged three of Piazzolla's most famous pieces for the Zemtsov Viola Quartet. Evgeni Zemtsov graduated with distinction from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where he studied with D. Kabalewski and A. Pirumov. He was named Composer Emeritus of Russia and he became a member of the Union of Composers of the Soviet Union. He worked as composition teacher at the Gnesin Institute in Moscow. Evgeni Zemtsov currently lives in Hamburg, Germany and he is a member of the Deutsche Componisten Verband and GEMA. Many of his compositions have been published in the former Soviet Union and later in Belgium (New Consonant Music) and Germany (Gitarmonia), and these include two symphonies, an oratorio, an opera, two sonatas for violin and piano, string quartet, choral, vocal and chamber music, as well as numerous arrangements for instrumental and vocal ensembles.

His works are frequently performed and broadcast in Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Bulgaria, Italy and Mexico.

## ZEMTSOV VIOLA QUARTET

**Mikhail Zemtsov** first took violin lessons from his mother Loudmila Levinson at the age of five, later studying viola and composition at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. He gained Soloist Diplomas with Distinction from ABRSM (GB, B. Dinerstein), the Hochschule fuer Musik in Hamburg (Germany, M. Nichetianu) and the Maastricht Conservatory (Netherlands, M. Kugel).

Mikhail took conducting lessons and masterclasses with Lev Markiz, Juozas Domarkas, Neeme and Paavo Jarvi, Gianandrea Noseda and Daniel Raiskin.

He has participated in numerous International Festivals in Europe, the Far East and the Americas as chamber music partner to musicians including Bella Davidovitch, Boris Berezovsky, Dmitri Sitkovetski, Sarah Chang, Janine Jansen and Julian Rachlin. He has recorded six chamber music CDs for Sony Masterworks, Tower Records and Deutsche Welle. His Solo CD 'The Last Rose of Summer' was placed as number 2 among the Top 50 of the TROS - Dutch Broadcast/TV Channel and it was given 9 points (excellent) in the biggest Dutch record-review magazine 'LUISTER'.

Mikhail has been a prizewinner at the first

International Viola Competition (Vienna) and the Elisa Meyer String Competition (Hamburg). Zemtsov's solo appearances include performances with the Moscow Conservatory Chamber Orchestra, Lima Philharmonic, New World Chamber Orchestra, National Symphony of Mexico, Luxembourg Philharmonic (R. Strauss 'Don Quixote' with Misha Maisky as cello soloist), Wiener Volksoper, Hamburger Symphoniker, Stavanger Symphon (Norway) and The Hague Philharmonic (Netherlands) with conductors including Neeme Jarvi, Jaap van Zweden and Dmitri Kitajenko. Mikhail also plays as a duo partner with guitarist Enno Voorhorst (Duo Macondo).

He founded the Zemtsov Viola Quartet together with his wife Julia, his brother Alexander and daughter Dana. Mikhail Zemtsov was principal violist with The Hague Philharmonic Orchestra (Residentie Orkest) a position he has held from 2001 to 2014. Mikhail Zemtsov is viola teacher at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague and at the Utrecht Conservatory. He is chief conductor of the Utrecht Conservatory Strings and the Concerto Grosso Youth Orchestra in Rotterdam.



MIKHAIL ZEMTSOV



ALEXANDER ZEMTSOV

Praised for his intense, innovative interpretations **Alexander Zemtsov** is one of the most versatile and sought after musicians on the music stage today. He has established recognition as a soloist, conductor, professor and chamber musician.

Alexander Zemtsov is a professor at some of the finest Music Universities in Europe: Viola Professor at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Univ.-Professor the Vienna Konservatorium Privat Universitat and guest professor at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Laussane in Switzerland.

Among his students are members of leading world orchestras as well as winners of numerous international competition prizes and awards. These include: New Zealand Symphony (Principal), Opera Flensburg (Principal), Malta Philharmonic (Co-Principal), Philharmonia Orchestra London, Royal Scottish National and BBC Symphony Orchestra London.

Alexander was born in 1978 into a family of musicians. He attended the famous Gnessin Music Lyceum in Moscow for gifted children, where he studied under Prof. E. Ozol. He continued his education with Prof. Michael Kugel at the Hoogeschool Maastricht and as a post-graduate at the Hochschule 'Hanns Eisler' Berlin in the class of Prof. Tabea Zimmermann. Since the age of

15 Alexander has performed extensively as viola soloist with numerous renowned orchestras in Europe, USA, Asia and Australia. He regularly performs as a soloist with conductors such as Alexander Veder-nikov, Vladimir Jurowski and Neeme Jarvi. Alexander 's mastery and artistry have been recognised internationally and have brought him numerous prizes and awards, including the International Competition 'Classical Legacy' in Moscow (first prize 1995), at the Elise Meyer competition in Hamburg (first prize 1997), at the 8th Brahms competition in Poertschach, Austria (first prize 2001) and many more.

Aged 23 Alexander was appointed Principal Viola of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2011 after 9 years of collaboration with LPO Alexander left the position to dedicate himself entirely to his demanding career as a soloist and chamber musician. As a devoted chamber musician he has performed in prestigious venues with partners such as Dmitri Sitkovetsky, Gerhard Schulz, Peter Donohoe and Patrick Gallois. In 2010- 2012 Alexander recorded string trios by Mozart and Faure Piano Quartets with The Hermitage String Trio and Kathryn Stott on Chandos.

As well as the complete Brahms and Mahler Piano quartets with Anton Barakhovsky, Wolfgang Emmanuel Schmidt and Eldar

Nebolsin on Naxos to be released in 2014. Alexander regularly records for the Naxos, LPO Live and Chandos labels, to acclaim which has included ‘...impassioned and technically immaculate playing..’ (Classical-source), ‘...played with furious dexterity...’ (Guardian), ‘...in the same league as Bashmet... amazing emotional depth...’ (Britten CD Review)

**Julia Dinerstein** studied violin at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory with Elizabetha Gilels and Andrei Korsakov. She graduated at the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music as a student of her father Boris Dinerstein (Mexico - England).

She later studied viola at the Maastricht Conservatory with Michael Kugel (Soloist Master Degree with Distinction). As a soloist and chamber music performer she has participated in International Festivals in Europa, America and the Far East where she has played chamber music with Dmitri Sitkovetski, Daniel Rowland, Priya Mitchell, Niek de Groot, Michael Kugel, Dan Zhu and Manja Smits. Since 2002 Julia has lived in The Hague, performing numerous recitals and chamber music concerts, amongst others as a member of The Hague String Trio.

Julia currently works as viola teacher at the ARTEZ Conservatory in Arnhem, the Maas-

tricht Conservatory and the Rotterdam Hellenitaal Music Institute (Rotterdam Conservatory). She gives summer masterclasses in Slovakia, France, Spain, USA, China and Italy. Several of Julia's pupils have become winners of National and International Viola Competitions. She has worked as a guest principal violist at the Limburg Symphony Orchestra, Holland Symphonica, Flemish Philharmonic, Brussels Philharmonic and De Munt Orchestra (Belgium) among others. Julia is the 2nd Prize winner of the Beethoven Int. Viola Competition (Austria).

Winner of numerous competitions and developing an outstanding career, **Dana Zemtsov** is one of the most promising international viola soloists of her generation. Highlights in the 2012-13 season include Dana's performance of the Bartók Viola Concerto in the Great Hall of the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, chamber music with Janine Jansen and Martin Frost during the Utrecht Chamber Music Festival and a recital at Carnegie Hall in New York. Furthermore, she signed an exclusive agreement with Channel Classics Records for three recordings to be released in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Dana is 1st price candidate/laureate of a dozen international competitions. In 2010

JULIA DINERSTEIN



DANA ZEMTISOV



Dana won the Dutch Television competition 'Evening of the Young Musician' becoming the 'Young Musician of the Year' and representing the Netherlands at the Eurovision Young Musicians Competition in Vienna. Dana regularly appears at the most important venues including the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Great and Small halls of the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Doelen in Rotterdam, Dr. Anton Philips Hall in The Hague. During the Christmas Concert in the Philharmonie in Haarlem she performed the Scene de Ballet by Chr. De Beriot with world famous pianist Boris Berezovsky. She has been chamber music partner to musicians including Janine Jansen, Martin Frost, Liza Ferschtman and Jean-Claude van den Eynden. She performs about 60 solo and chamber concerts every year. As a soloist, Dana performed with the Ukrainian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Rotterdam, Holland Sinfonia, Viotta Youth Orchestra, the Rotterdam Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, F. Busoni Chamber Orchestra (Italy), Maastricht Conservatory Orchestra, Amsterdam University and the Sweelink Symphony Orchestra.

Dana toured Denmark and Peru with Lestari Scholtes (piano), and in 2008 did a major tour in the Netherlands with Princess Christina Competition laureates and four outstanding Japanese musicians. In 2010 Dana participated in the Stars of Tomorrow tour in Germany, together with the most promising young talents of Europe. She performed on festivals in Esslingen, Sangerhausen and Passau (Germany), the Cividale del Friuli (Italy), at the Delft Chamber Music Festival, the Grachten Festival, the Chamber Music Festival between Maas and Waal, the International Janine Jansen Chamber Music Festival Utrecht and during the Three Day Music Festival The Hague. Dana represented Grachtenfestival Amsterdam in St. Petersburg, Russia, playing a recital at the Philharmonic Hall. Dana Zemtsov was born in 1992 in Mexico City. She comes from a family of musicians. At the age of five she received her first music lessons from her grandmother and from her parents, viola players Mikhail Zemtsov and Julia Dinerstein. Since 2012 she has studied with the famous viola virtuoso Michael Kugel.





*Recording Producer and editing*

Daan van Aalst

*Recording venue and dates*

26-28 october 2013

Muziekcentrum van de Omroep, Hilversum

*Artwork*

Ad van der Kouwe, Manifesta

*Photography*

Marije van den Berg (ArtoTake)

*Cover painting*

Liora Zemtsov

*Booklet text editor*

Dominy Clements

Special thanks to Jorien Quirijnen

[www.zemtsov.info](http://www.zemtsov.info)

More information about Navis Classics,  
our high resolution downloads and future  
releases can be found on

**[www.navisclassics.com](http://www.navisclassics.com)**

**GUIDO PAPINI** (1846-1912)

*Quartet for four Violas*

- |   |                               |      |
|---|-------------------------------|------|
| 1 | <i>Moderato assai</i>         | 0.59 |
| 2 | <i>Allegro moderato</i>       | 2.15 |
| 3 | <i>Andante sostenuto</i>      | 1.40 |
| 4 | <i>Allegretto con spirito</i> | 1.36 |

**YORK BOWEN** (1884-1961)

- |   |   |       |
|---|---|-------|
| 5 | <i>Fantasy Quartet op. 41 for four violas</i> | 10.28 |
|---|---|-------|

**MAX VON WEINZIERL** (1841-1898)

- |   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| 6 | <i>Nocturne (Nachtstück) op. 34 for four violas</i> | 8.01 |
|---|---|------|

**ARNE WERKMAN** (b. 1960)

*Quatre mouvements pour quatre altos op. 59*

- |    |                                |      |
|----|--------------------------------|------|
| 7  | <i>Sempre moderato</i>         | 2.44 |
| 8  | <i>Alla marcia</i>             | 2.33 |
| 9  | <i>Quasi Largo</i>             | 2.34 |
| 10 | <i>Mosso, ma sempre giusto</i> | 2.51 |

**ARVYDAS MALCYS** (b.1957)

- |    |                              |      |
|----|------------------------------|------|
| 11 | <i>Elegy for four violas</i> | 5.11 |
|----|------------------------------|------|

**DANIIL ZEMTSOV** (b. 1996)

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 12 | <i>'The circle of diminished fifths' for four violas</i> | 3.30 |
|----|--|------|

**ASTOR PIAZZOLLA** (1921-1992)

arr. Evgeni Zemtsov

- |    |                          |      |
|----|--------------------------|------|
| 13 | <i>Verano porteño</i>    | 4.29 |
| 14 | <i>Milonga del Angel</i> | 4.41 |
| 15 | <i>Muerte del Angel</i>  | 2.58 |

Total time 57.19