



**Classical Concerts Productions Ltd.**

Presents

## **STANKOV ENSEMBLE**

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**Vania Vatrlova – Stankov** – soprano

**Ivo Stankov** – violin

**Lachezar Stankov** – piano



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### **SHORT BIOGRAPHY 330 words**

The Stankovs are a third generation of musicians rooted in the finest of musical traditions of their native Bulgaria.

Since settling in the UK, they have performed individually and together to great critical acclaim at all the major chamber music venues in London including the Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, St-Martin-in-The-Fields, King's Place and the Purcell Room, as well as at the Royal Albert Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Glasgow Concert Hall, St. George's Hall, and De Montfort Hall, to name a few.

Their debut CD entitled "*Musical evenings with Stankov Ensemble*" was rated five stars by the critic James Palmer in *Musical Opinion* and was enthusiastically recommended as a '...surprisingly successful and very well recorded disk...'. The album was also highly praised in a number of music specialized publications stating that "...the performances are always of a high standard and to much to both move and charm..." (*Planet Hugill*), and that "...the recording quality is excellent and the performances technically impeccable and deeply committed..." (*MusicWeb International*).

Stankov Ensemble have performed as soloists with orchestras in the UK, Spain and Bulgaria such as English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic, and Sofia Soloists Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Kantorov, Lanzetta, Seghedoni, Dafov, Djouroff, Kamdzhlov, Georgiev, and Alex Ingram, amongst others.

The ensemble has recently performed a number of world premieres dedicated especially to them, by composers such as Grammy –awarded Dobrinka Tabakova, Martin Georgiev, Gwyn Pritchard and Marcos Fernandez. Since its launch, Stankov Ensemble has participated in most of Bulgaria's major International festivals such as "Sofia Music Weeks", "Varna Summer", "Music Days in Balabanov's House", and "Sofia Winter Festival", as well as performing for a number of music clubs and societies in the UK, such as those in Bath, Redbridge and Theydon Boys.

Engagements of Stankov Ensemble and it's members in 2016 include concerts with Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra (New York), Orquestra Sinfonica do Rio Grande do Norte (Natal, Brazil), Orquestra da Camera della Sardegna (Italy), Philharmonia Orchestra (London), and Pazardjik Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria).



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### **PRESS QUOTES:**

“The ensemble has proven their skills in building up the dramaturgy in their programme, which captures the attention and holds it all the way to the end, suggesting the ideas as if in one breath. Succinctly, with no excess. And so on.

From the Bulgarian song-writer, the jubilee, through another jubilee - John Adams, the Armenian - Alan Hovhaness, John Williams and Martin Georgiev. A journey through different ages, different styles, different signatures, felt and interpreted by Vania Stankova, Ivo Stankov and Lachezar Stankov.

A musical family, which not only works as an ensemble, but every one of whom has reached the high interpretative state, and level. I call it a state, because in chamber music the pulse of every participant must be the pulse of a whole body. And this happens somewhat naturally in this family ensemble.”

**‘Duma’ National Newspaper, Sofia**

“The Trio performed the Spanish repertoire with finesse and style – the most memorable of the evening were De Falla’s ‘Seven Popular Songs’, exquisitely performed by Vania and Lachezar Stankov; Ravel’s ‘Tsigane’ where Ivo Stankov’s playing was spirited and temperamental, and Lachezar Stankov’s dazzling performance of ‘Sevilla’ from the Suite ‘España’ by Albeniz.

In the arias the singer showed the quality of her voice and the intelligent use of timbre, strength and dynamics.

At the end of the concert we heard the Suite ‘España’ by Chabrier arranged for voice, violin and piano – original and effective.”

**‘Kultura’ Newspaper, Sofia**



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### **DEBUT CD REVIEWS:**

"This is a fascinating issue with wide-ranging appeal. It contains several surprises: how many know of Bliss's three songs for voice and violin, composed when he was 75? Or similar pieces by Holst and Rebecca Clarke or Rachmaninoff's songs with violin obbligato? Here they are, with music by more long-standing names and by the contemporary Bulgarian Antoni Donchev (b 1959) and other lesser-known but eminently worthy composers. If it seems a collection rather too wide-ranging for many tastes, I must enthusiastically recommend this surprisingly successful disc. It is very well recorded."

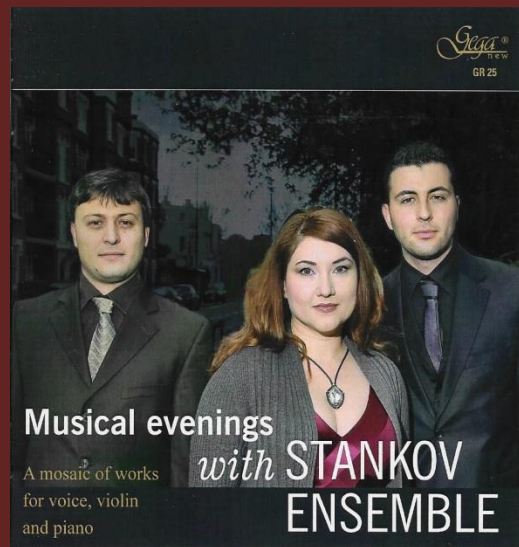
**FIVE STARS rating, James Palmer, Musical Opinion, July 2015**

"Emmanuel Chabrier's best known melody, Espana...makes a jubilant finale to a very interesting, entertaining and unpredictable programme. Readers gunning for something unusual but accessible should search it out and rest assured that the recording quality is excellent and the performances technically impeccable and deeply committed."

**Goran Forsling, Music Web International, April 2015**

" There is a great deal to enjoy on this disc and the Stankov's enterprising choice of repertoire with their investigation into English language song for voice and violin has much to be commended so that the songs on this disc are anything but ordinary and a musical evening with the Stankov's clearly has lots of elements of the unexpected to delight. Performances are always of a high standard and to much to both move and charm...Do try the disc, there is much to enjoy."

**Robert Hugill, Planet Hugill, April 2015**



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