



GYMNOPÉDIE • CSÁRDÁS • HAIKU

JOURNEY TO THE ORIENT

MUSIC FOR FLUTE AND GUITAR

SILVIA SCHIAFFINO, FLUTE
RENATO PROCOPIO, GUITAR

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01	Enrique Granados - Orientale (arr. by Renato Procopio)	05:02
02	Erik Satie - Gymnopédie (arr. by Mary Criswick)	02:45
03	Vittorio Monti - Csárdás (arr. by Renato Procopio)	04:29
04	Pierre-Octave Ferroud - Jade (for solo flute)	02:07
05	Antonín Dvořák - Humoresque Op. 101 No. 7 (arr. by Renato Procopio)	02:26
Béla Bartók - Six Romanian Folk Dances (arr. by Arthur Levering)		05:41
06	Romanian Folk Dance No. 1	01:03
07	Romanian Folk Dance No. 2	00:34
08	Romanian Folk Dance No. 3	01:07
09	Romanian Folk Dance No. 4	01:20
10	Romanian Folk Dance No. 5	00:37
11	Romanian Folk Dance No. 6	01:00
12	Fryderyk Chopin - Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2 (for solo guitar, arr. by Francisco Tarrega)	05:33
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky - Melodie and Scherzo from "Souvenir d'un lieu cher" Op. 42 No. 3 (arr. by R. Procopio)		07:46
13	Melodie	03:01
14	Scherzo	04:45
15	Dmitri Shostakovich - Waltz No. 2 (arr. by Renato Procopio)	03:35
Renato Procopio		
16	Haiku No. 1*	02:35
17	Haiku No. 2*	02:33
18	Haiku No. 3*	02:01

Yuquijiro Yocoh - Sakura - Theme and variations on the Japanese folk song for solo guitar

05:34

19	Introduction	00:45
20	Theme	00:52
21	Variation No. 1	00:45
22	Variation No. 2	01:16
23	Variation No. 3	00:42
24	Variation No. 4	00:46
25	Coda	00:28

Anonymous - 3 Korean folk pieces (arr. by Renato Procopio)

04:16

26	Korean Folk Song No. 1	01:39
27	Korean Folk Song No. 2	01:11
28	Korean Folk Song No. 3	01:26

29 Renato Procopio

03:57

Vagabond in the desert (freely drawn from "Vagabond" by Pallet, and "Desert" by R. Boroumand)*

Running Time

62:01

* WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING

SILVIA SCHIAFFINO, FLUTE - RENATO PROCOPIO, GUITAR

JOURNEY TO THE ORIENT

During the past years, the sounds coming from the Orient have been bomb explosions, desperate cries of the innocent victims of the world's powerful, pressing tones threatening a shortage of energy for most of Europe, and the media tam-tam shifting truth and rightfulness from one side to the other: all sounds of division and discord. Music is a universal language, the art that leads to harmony par excellence. To appreciate it, there is no need to have studied it; to enjoy it, there is no need to be in the right. We want people to hear other sounds from the Orient, those of the music of the great composers from Eastern Europe and Asia, which will take us on a progressively farther and farther journey, not only geographically but also melodically and harmonically; we want to restore unity to this part of the world that suffers, and reconcile in our hearts and minds the conflicts that hopefully, sooner or later, will also cease in reality.

Renato Procopio

This programme consists, for the most part, of arrangements for flute and guitar of works written for other instruments. Starting with the homages paid by composers from Western Europe (Monti, Granados, Satie) it moves on to some pieces written by musicians from Eastern Europe (Bartók, Dvořák, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich), concluding with Japanese, Iranian, and Korean popular themes.

There are some very popular works, one of them being *Oriental* by Enrique Granados. Granados (Lleida, 1867 - UK, 1916) was a very talented pianist and composer. He died at the apex of success, in March 1916, in the sinking of the ship *Sussex*, while returning from the United States where his opera *Goyescas* had reaped great success. *Oriental*, with its languid and soft melody, is one of his most famous piano pages, also known through countless arrangements. No less popular, however, are the fascinating *Gymnopédie* No. 1 by Eric Satie (Honfleur, 1866 - Paris, 1925), it too often heard in arrangements for different instruments, and *Csárdás* by Vittorio Monti (Naples, 1869 - 1922). Monti studied composition at the San Pietro a Majella Conservatory in Naples under the guidance of Paolo Serrao. He wrote *Csárdás* in 1904, after moving to Paris, and it quickly became his most famous piece, entering the repertoire of all gypsy instrumental ensembles. But by far the most well-known piece of all is the legendary *Nocturne* in E flat major Op. 9 No. 2 by Fryderyk Chopin (Zelazowa Wola, 1810 - Paris, 1849), which a recent survey has in first place among the most popular works of classical music (even before Puccini's *Nessun dorma*...)

Béla Bartók (Nagyszentmiklós, 1881 - New York, 1945) composed his *Romanian Folk Dances* for piano in 1915; two years later he made a very successful arrangement of them for string orchestra, frequently performed by chamber ensembles. The Magyar composer was known to be a keen scholar of folk traditions, not only those of his country but

also of neighbouring lands; and it is curious that one of his best-known and performed works today should be dedicated to the popular music of a nation, Romania, that has always been a fierce rival of Hungary, also due to some territorial claims.

Jade is an original piece for solo flute, part of a collection of *Three Pieces* written by French composer Pierre-Octave Ferroud. A very talented and original musician, Ferroud was born in Chasselay, near Lyons, in 1900; he died tragically in a car accident in Debrecen, Hungary, in 1936.

The delightful *Humoresque* in G major Op. 101 No. 7 (originally in G flat major) is part, instead, of 8 short pieces for piano by Antonín Dvořák (Nelahozeves, 1841 - Prague, 1904), who composed them in 1894, at the time of his US stay. Initially, he was going to entitle them *New Scottish Dances*, then opting for the more neutral *Humoresques*.

Tchaikovsky (Votkinsk, 1840 - St Petersburg, 1893) composed the three *Souvenirs d'un lieu cher* Op. 42 (originally for violin and piano) in the spring of 1878, as a souvenir of Nadiezda von Meck's estate in Brailiv, Ukraine, where he had spent a pleasant two weeks' holiday. Here recorded are the third and second pieces of this collection, *Mélodie* and *Scherzo*; the first one, not included in this programme, originally was to have been the slow movement of his *Violin Concerto* Op. 35, but the composer later chose to write an alternative piece (the famous *Canzonetta*).

Dimitri Shostakovich (St. Petersburg, 1906 -

Moscow, 1975) was a very prolific composer, his output including, among other things, fifteen symphonies, six concertos, fifteen string quartets, ballets and film music. The *Waltz No. 2* that Silvia Schiaffino and Renato Procopio have included in this recording is drawn from his *Suite for Variety Orchestra*, a composition in eight movements taken from some other works of his, which the musician assembled not sooner than 1956. The *Waltz No. 2* was made famous by Stanley Kubrik, who used it in the soundtrack of *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999).

The last works in this programme take us to the Far East. In *Haiku*, Renato Procopio draws inspiration from that Japanese poetic form, which consists of three phrases composed of 17 phonetic units (similar to syllables), in a 5, 7, 5 pattern. The *Sakura Variations* for solo guitar are the work, instead of Japanese composer Yuquijiro Yocoh (1925 - 2009) and are based on the *Sakura* folk song. The recording ends with three Korean popular pieces and, lastly, another piece by Renato Procopio, *Vagabond in the Desert*, freely inspired by a work by Iranian composer and violinist Jahanshah Boroumand.

Danilo Prefumo

(Translated by Daniela Pilarz)

Born in Savona in 1974, **Renato Procopio** earned a guitar diploma at the Conservatory of Cuneo under the guidance of Pino Briasco. He performed with the “Camerata Strumentale Giovanile di Savona” conducted by Franco Giacosa, appearing in concerts held in Italy and Germany, and with the “Orchestra dei Giovani Solisti” conducted by Nevio Zanardi, with which he participated in the 2004 recording of a CD for Philharmonia; in 2006 he was a member of the “Ensemble Nuove Musiche” in the recording of the opera *Brundibar*. He won first prize at the “P. Taraffo” national competition of Genoa in 1989 and 1990, and earned second prize at the international competition of Milan in 1990. In 2000, he came third at the “Riviera Etrusca” international competition, while in 2004 he won first prize in the guitar section of the “G. De Vincenzi” international competition for music performance. He recorded live two CDs of classical music, a CD featuring his guitar arrangements of Walt Disney’s most famous soundtracks (2012), and a CD with his arrangements of film soundtracks (2021). In 2014 with guitarist Federico Briasco, flautist Silvia Schiaffino, and violinist Elena Aiello he recorded the CD “Se fosse poesia...”, featuring 10 works of his own writing; this was later used as soundtrack for the Audiobook of poems “Il Viaggio”, written and recorded by Roman actor and dubber Silvio Anselmo. In 2018 his CD “Vol Au Vent”, recorded with Silvia Schiaffino, was awarded the bronze medal at the Global Music Awards.

Silvia Schiaffino began her musical adventure at a much later age than usual, starting her flute studies after graduating in Pharmacy. She earned her flute diploma as a private student at the Conservatory of Cuneo after just three years of study under the guidance of Emilio Vapi della Scuola Civica di Milano. She perfected her studies with internationally renowned teachers in Italy and abroad, always as an active student, appearing at European and American international festivals. She was repeatedly invited to perform at the James Galway Flute Festival of Weggis (Switzerland), where she received the unanimous praise of the festival organiser and of the other flautists. She has held over 300 concerts, both as soloist and in chamber ensembles (duo, trio, quartet), in Italy, France, Belgium, the US, and South America. She was a teacher and a member of the jury at the Flute International Festival of Lima (Peru), held at the Conservatorio Nacional, where she also performed as soloist. She appeared with the Orchestra giovanile della Svizzera italiana conducted by Giancarlo Monterosso performing Vivaldi’s Flute Concertos (Cardellino, Tempesta di mare, La Notte). In 2018 her CD “Vol au Vent”, recorded with guitarist Renato Procopio, was awarded the bronze medal at the Global Music Awards, a prize she also won in 2022 for her performance of Bach’s Toccata and Fugue in D minor transcribed for solo flute. Recently, she won first prize in the professional category at the Birmingham International Music Competition.



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