

The NAXOS logo is located in the top left corner, featuring the word "NAXOS" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background with a white architectural motif above it.

NAXOS

SCHUBERT

String Quartet No. 14
'Death and the Maiden'
(arr. Mahler)

ICHMOURATOV

Concerto Grosso No. 3
'Liechtenstein'

LGT YOUNG
SOLOISTS

Alexander Gilman

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) • Airat Ichmouratov (b. 1973)

Works for Strings

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

String Quartet No. 14 in D minor ‘Death and the Maiden’, D. 810 (1824)

(arr. Gustav Mahler [1860–1911] for string orchestra)

Gustav Mahler’s orchestral arrangement of Franz Schubert’s *Death and the Maiden* quartet showcases the transformative power of two musical giants. Originally composed during a period of profound illness for Schubert, the quartet is often interpreted as a reflection on mortality, with its title drawn from the poignant second movement.

Schubert’s composition, inspired by his song *Death and the Maiden*, portrays a poignant struggle against the inevitability of death. In this set of five variations, the girl in the song contends with the looming presence of death, depicted as a ‘grisly man of bone’ who paradoxically presents himself as a welcome friend.

Mahler’s arrangement, a testament to his admiration for Schubert, expands the chamber work into a grand orchestral spectacle. This rendition, featured in this recording, invites listeners to experience the emotional depth and thematic richness of Schubert’s masterpiece through the symphonic lens crafted by Mahler.

Death and the Maiden, in Mahler’s hands, becomes an immersive journey through life, death, and the resilience of the human spirit. As one of the most beloved pieces in the classical repertoire, this orchestral adaptation pays homage to the profound legacy of both Schubert and Mahler, offering a captivating fusion of their musical visions.

Airat Ichmouratov (b. 1973)

Concerto Grosso No. 3 ‘Liechtenstein’, Op. 68 (2021)

‘Airat is a communicator in the best sense of the word. His music immediately grabs the listener, and a journey starts: storytelling, landscapes, emotions... It is precious to have such music in our world today.’ So writes the conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin of the award-winning Volga Tatar-born Canadian composer and conductor Airat Ichmouratov. His music has been performed in countries around the world at concert halls such as the Musikverein Wien, Konzerthaus Berlin, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Tonhalle Zürich, Sydney Opera House and Montreal Symphony House, among many others, by a wide range of ensembles and musicians in countries around the world, including Maxim Vengerov, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain, the London Symphony Orchestra, Alexander Gilman and the LGT Young Soloists, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of India, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Tatarstan National Symphony Orchestra, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra of Polish Radio, The State Chamber Orchestra of the Republic of Belarus, Yuli Turovsky and the I Musici de Montréal chamber orchestra, and the Israeli Soloists and Moscow Virtuosi chamber orchestras, to name but a few.

Many of Airat Ichmouratov’s compositions can be found on international record labels such as Chandos, Warner Classics, Analekta, ATMA Classique, and Hedone Records.

Ichmouratov holds two Master’s degrees (in interpretation – clarinet and composition) and a PhD in orchestral conducting from the University of Montreal, and is frequently invited to appear as a guest conductor with numerous orchestras around the world. From 2007 to 2021 he served as conductor and composer in residence with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, Longueuil Symphony Orchestra and Les Violons du Roy chamber orchestra. Born in the USSR, he studied clarinet at the Kazan State Conservatory. After moving to Canada in 1998 he founded the Muczynski Trio, which won First Prize and the Grand Award at the 2002 National Music Festival in Canada, and First Prize at the Eighth International Competition of Contemporary Chamber Music in Kraków, Poland (2004). Ichmouratov is the leader, composer, arranger and clarinetist of the internationally acclaimed, award-winning klezmer group Kleztory, and a professor at Laval University in Quebec, Canada.



Airat Ichmouratov

His most recent composition, the neo-Romantic opera *The Man Who Laughs*, after Victor Hugo's novel of the same name, a commission from Festival Classica, was premiered in Montreal in spring 2023.

In 2021, Airat Ichmouratov composed *Concerto Grosso No. 3*, titled *Liechtenstein*, exclusively for Alexander Gilman and the LGT Young Soloists. Premiered at the Konzerthaus Berlin in August 2021 during the Young Euro Classic festival, it was commissioned with generous support from the Princely Family of Liechtenstein, commemorating the 100th anniversary of LGT Private Banking. The piece, embracing the traditional concerto grosso style, spotlights two solo violins, a solo viola, and a solo cello, accompanied by strings in a three-movement structure (fast, slow, fast).

The initial movement draws inspiration from Liechtenstein's breath-taking nature, with Ichmouratov ingeniously employing a nightingale call instrument (bird water whistle) to mimic birdsong in the mountains. The slow movement, a lyrical *larghetto* characteristic of Ichmouratov's compositions, showcases a solo violin, later joined by a solo cello. The concluding movement exudes festivity and virtuosity, drawing inspiration from Liechtenstein's polkas and folklore. In the coda, the opening theme resurfaces, culminating in a whimsical conclusion.

Alexander Gilman

LGT Young Soloists



The award-winning string ensemble LGT Young Soloists is made up of highly gifted young soloists from the age of 13 to 23, and brings together musicians from over 15 nations. The project gives top-class young instrumentalists the opportunity to perform regularly on the world's leading stages as soloists, chamber and orchestral musicians, enthraling audiences with their highly professional playing. Recent highlights include performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, Wiener Musikverein, Philharmonie Luxembourg, and the Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore, as well as tours through Australia and South Africa. Since its founding in 2013 by violinist and pedagogue Alexander Gilman and pianist Marina Seltenreich, LGT Young Soloists has established itself as one of the leading and most widely touring youth orchestras worldwide. Just two years after it was founded, the ensemble was the world's first youth orchestra to record for Sony Classical/RCA Red Seal. Its discography includes six albums: *Philip Glass* (Orange Mountain Music, 2021), *Beethoven RECOMPOSED* (Naxos 8.579081, 2020) and *Souvenir* (2019), *Nordic Dream* (2018), *Russian Soul* (2017) and *Italian Journey* (2015), released on RCA Red Seal.

www.lgtyoungsoloists.com

Alexander Gilman



Alexander Gilman is one of the most renowned violinists and teachers of his generation. Since 2013 he has been the artistic director of the LGT Young Soloists, and in 2019 he was appointed visiting professor of violin at the Royal College of Music. Alongside his activities as a soloist, Gilman has established himself as an internationally recognised teacher, passionate about fostering young talents and holistically preparing them for life as a professional musician. The fact that his students regularly win competitions demonstrates the high quality of his teaching work. By founding the LGT Young Soloists, he has created a unique initiative that promotes young artists. The string ensemble is made up of highly talented soloists from the age of 14 to 23. From the age of 16 Gilman worked with Dorothy DeLay in New York. He also studied with Zakhar Bron in Cologne and Zurich. A Thomastik-Infeld Artist, Gilman currently plays a violin made by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini in Parma, 1769.

www.alexandergilman.com

Gustav Mahler arranged Schubert's *String Quartet No. 14 'Death and the Maiden'* by expanding it into a grand orchestral spectacle. It reveals his admiration for Schubert and serves to intensify the quartet's journey through life, death and human resilience in this fusion of two great composers' musical visions. Airat Ichmouratov's *Concerto Grosso No. 3* is subtitled '*Liechtenstein*' and draws on the country's breath-taking scenery and music in an expressive and virtuoso orchestral exploration. It was composed specifically for Alexander Gilman and the LGT Young Soloists, one of the most successful touring youth orchestras throughout the world.

Franz
SCHUBERT
(1797–1828)

String Quartet No. 14 in D minor 'Death and the Maiden', D. 810 (1824)

(arr. Gustav Mahler [1860–1911] for string orchestra)

37:27

1 **I. Allegro**

11:08

2 **II. Andante con moto**

13:57

3 **III. Scherzo: Allegro molto – Trio**

3:56

4 **IV. Presto**

8:26

Airat
ICHMOURATOV
(b. 1973)

Concerto Grosso No. 3 'Liechtenstein', Op. 68 (2021)*

21:06

5 **I. Allegro agitato**

6:31

6 **II. Largo**

8:58

7 **III. Allegro giocoso**

5:37

***WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

LGT Young Soloists

Alexander Gilman, Leader and Artistic Director

Recorded: 24–25 May 2023 at Henry Wood Hall, London, UK 1–4 and 19–21 March 2022
at Teldex Studio Berlin, Germany 5–7 • Producers: Stephen Johns 1–4, Caroline Siegers 5–7
Engineers and editors: Jonathan Stokes 1–4, Caroline Siegers 5–7 • Booklet notes: Alexander Gilman
Publishers: Josef Weinberger, Ltd. – Edition: David Matthews and Donald Mitchell 1–4, AICH Publishers 5–7
Cover design: Christine Schweizer • Photograph: Marion Schönenberger
© & © 2024 Naxos Rights (Europe) Ltd • www.naxos.com