

RADEK BABORÁK AND HIS ORQUESTRINA RELEASE AN ALBUM WITH MUSIC BY ASTOR PIAZZOLLA



Five years have passed since the release of the first album by the world-renowned French-horn player RADEK BABORÁK on Animal Music. It contained “dance music” by some well-known as well as lesser-known composers in arrangements for the French horn and chamber ensemble, including pieces by the father of Argentinian *tango nuevo*, ASTOR PIAZZOLLA. It is to his music alone that the new album, called simply PIAZZOLLA, is dedicated. With this project, RADEK BABORÁK continues on his pioneering mission as an arranger and a performer of Piazzolla’s work in atypical line-ups. While Piazzolla’s music does not feature French horn, in this recording the role of the bandoneon – traditionally the carrier of the Argentine-tango sound – is taken over by the French horn, the bass clarinet, violin and piano. Baborák’s

arrangements, prepared in collaboration with Tomáš Ille, were tailor-made for his eleven-member ensemble which unites foremost Czech and international players. Baborák thus achieves his desired aim, which is not to sound as one of the many “revival bands” of Piazzolla’s own legendary quintet. Instead, the arrangements let the music itself stand out and they highlight the masterful invention of Piazzolla who was able to combine in his compositions great expressivity and exulted passion with melancholy and humbleness. All those qualities inform the interpretation by Radek Baborák Orquestrina while they are taken to a whole new level in this recording that is based on perfect harmony and vigorous interpretation. Baborák’s ORQUESTRINA consists of excellent soloists and members of foremost chamber ensembles. The core of Orquestina consists of the quintet BABORÁK ENSEMBLE whose members are, apart from the artistic director, the violinists Dalibor Karvay and Martina Bačová, violist Karel Untermüller and cellist Hana Baboráková. On this album they have been joined by bass-clarinetist Petr Valášek, known as member of Clarinet Factory, the foremost Slovakian guitarist Miriam Rodriguez Brüllová, pianist Václav Krahulík, Hungarian bassoon player Bence Bogányi, double bassist David Pavelka and drum player Jiří Stivín Jr.

The album was recorded at the Sono Records Studio, in collaboration with the sound engineers Milan Cimfe and Pavel Karlík and the recording director Petr Ostrouchov. The author of the graphic design of the booklet cover is Jonatan Kuna from the Najbrt Studio. The album is distributed by SUPRAPHON both on CD and digitally and is also available from the e-shop on the website of ANIMAL MUSIC, both as CD and vinyl player.



RADEK BABORÁK is one of the leading French-horn players in the world. At the age of 18 he became first French horn of the Czech Philharmonic and he held the same position at the Munich and the Berlin Philharmonic. Since 2010 he has been pursuing a solo career in collaboration with foremost world conductors and chamber players and has appeared at prestigious venues throughout the world. Together with his ensemble and repertoire from the previous album “Orquestrina” he has toured many parts of the world. This is how he describes his discovery of Piazzolla’s music for himself: *“I discovered Ástor Piazzolla, his music and life story by coincidence some seven years ago and I set my heart on having some of the pieces arranged so that they could be performed by my ensemble. I started researching for information, gathering sheet music and collecting recordings. I contacted Piazzolla’s violinist Fernando Suarez Paz and I started to emulate the unusual style of Ástor Piazzolla on the French horn. What was my pleasant surprise when I realized that I even had my birthday on the same day as the maestro!”*

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