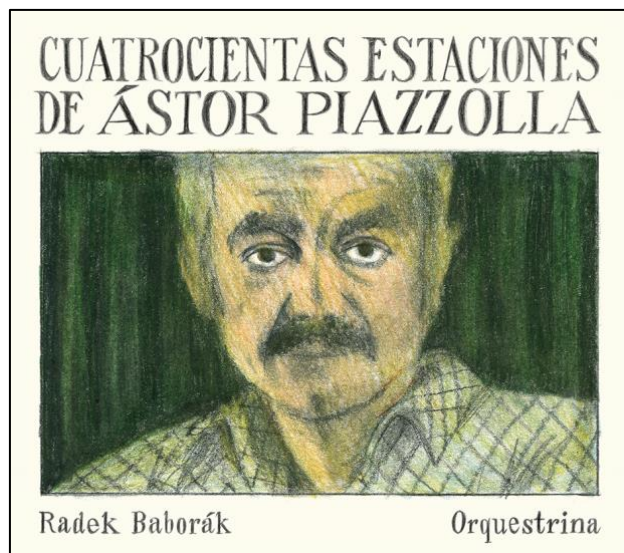


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RADEK BABORÁK AND HIS ORQUESTRINA'S NEW ALBUM MARKS THE CENTENARY OF ÁSTOR PIAZZOLLA'S BIRTH



On Thursday March 11th 2021, exactly on the day **ÁSTOR PIAZZOLLA** – the legendary Argentine composer (1921 - 1992) whose music contributed to the worldwide popularity of Argentine tango – would have celebrated his one-hundredth birthday, the world-renowned French horn player and conductor **RADEK BABORÁK** releases a new album with a selection of Piazzolla's most famous compositions. The album, entitled **CUATROCIENTAS ESTACIONES DE ÁSTOR PIAZZOLLA** (*Four Hundred Seasons of Ástor Piazzolla*) is a loose sequel to the preceding album, *Piazzolla*, from 2019 (Animal Music). Baborák, who happens to have been born on the same day as Piazzolla, selected the following compositions for the recording, *The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires*, *Le Grand Tango*, *Adiós Nonino*,

Oblivion and *Libertango*, and arranged them in collaboration with the composer Tomáš Ille for the specific line-up of his ensemble. **RADEK BABORÁK ORQUESTRINA** brings together top solo performers who combine their instrumental mastery with a rare mutual harmony in their intensive and passionate interpretation of Piazzolla's "tango nuevo" style. Baborák's performance on the French horn, unrivalled in its flawless effortlessness, the flexible, free-sounding bass clarinet of Petr Valášek, the breathtaking violin solos of concert master of Vienna Philharmonic Dalibor Karvay, the virtuosic vibraphone of Ladislav Bilan and the energetic piano performance of Václav Krahulík form the core of the unique timbre of the ensemble. **ORQUESTRINA** expands the catalogue of sounds and sound effects associated with Piazzolla's music by including effects such as rapping on the French horn, slaps performed on bass clarinet, prepared piano, imitation of the sound of cicadas, sirens and many others. Individual members of **ORQUESTRINA** often also incorporate improvised cadenzas and passages. Their spontaneous and energetic, as well as lyrical and deeply felt performance takes Piazzolla's compositional mastery and invention to an altogether new level.

The album was recorded at the SONO Records studio in collaboration with the producer and recording director Petr Ostrouchov and sound masters Milan Cimfe, Pavel Karlík and Adam Karlík. The cover design is by Jakub Spurný from the Najbrt Studio, the artwork on the cover and in the booklet is by Anežka Hájková. The album is distributed by SUPRAPHON on CD and digitally, and is available also from the ANIMAL MUSIC e-shop at www.animalmusic.cz.

CUATROCIENTAS ESTACIONES DE ÁSTOR PIAZZOLLA is published by Animal Music as part of the Animal Music 2021 Edition, supported by the City of Prague, and under the auspices of the Embassy of Argentina in Prague.

RADEK BABORÁK ORQUESTRINA features the following performers on this album: Radek Baborák (French horn, artistic director), Petr Valášek (bass clarinet), Václav Krahulík (piano), Dalibor Karvay, Martina Bačová and Milan Al-Ashhab (violin), Karel Untermüller and Vilém Kijonka (viola), Hana Baboráková (cello),

David Pavelka (double bass), Jiří Stivín ml. (percussions), Ladislav Bilan ml. (vibraphone), Hana Švestková Dohanlová (harp), Ondřej Roskovec (bassoon), Kateřina Javůrková, Mikuláš Koska a Kryštof Koska (French horn).

The phenomenal French horn player and conductor **RADEK BABORÁK** (* 11. 3. 1976) has been one of the leading representatives of his musical generation from an early age. While only eighteen Baborák became first French horn of the Czech Philharmonic, a position he later held also at the Munich and the Berlin Philharmonic. His instrumental mastery has taken him to the absolute top in the field and he regularly appears as soloist with the most renowned world orchestras and conductors. After he left his post with the Berlin Philharmonic in 2010, Baborák started focussing on solo performance and



conducting and also founded his own quintet, Baborák Ensemble. In 2013 he expanded the ensemble to become the Radek Baborák Orquestrina, a chamber formation whose line-up alters according to the requirements of the performed repertoire, which often consist of music arranged especially for the ensemble. Baborák's continuous wish to extend the repertoire for the French horn eventually brought him to Ástor Piazzolla. In collaboration with arranger Tomáš Ille, and having received consultations from violinist Fernando Suárez Paz who had been member of Piazzolla's famous Quinteto for ten years, Baborák first introduced his unique arrangements of Piazzolla's music in 2014, on the debut album of his ensemble, and five years later he dedicated an entire album to the composer (*Piazzolla*, 2019).

"It is easy to fall in love with works such as these, endowed with an energetic beat, moving sentimental melody, harmonic surprises, space for improvisation, passages of growing tension followed by a climax and an ensuing release, as well as other enlivening attributes and sound effects. It is only natural that one would want to keep experiencing such music over and again, both as a listener and a performer," says Radek Baborák of his approach to Ástor Piazzolla's music.

Together with the Academy of Mentoring and Artistic Education MenARt, **RADEK BABORÁK** has initiated a charity collection to support the families of professional freelance artist who have lost their income from live performance due to the pandemic. As part of the first run of the collection, launched in the spring of 2020 on the Donio.cz platform, 1.355.000 Czech Crowns were collected and distributed. In the second run, launched before Christmas last year, donors have so far contributed 643.000 CZK. Donors in the second run of the collection will receive a CD of **CUATROCIENTAS ESTACIONES DE ÁSTOR PIAZZOLLA** as special thanks for their contribution.

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