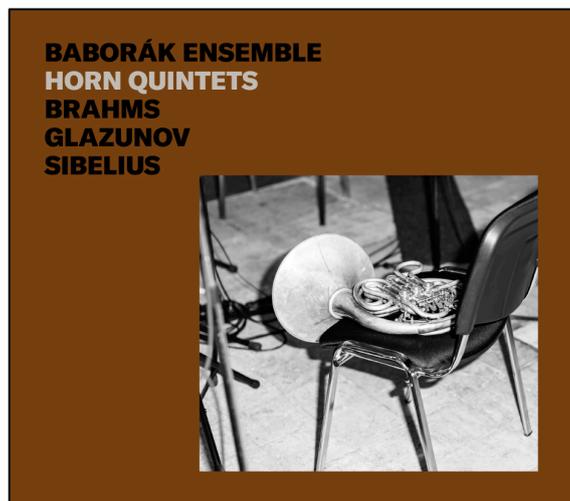


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Radek Baborák's new album brings compositions by romantic authors in new arrangements for the French horn and string quartet



The new album of the world-renowned horn player Radek Baborák features compositions by three romantic authors in arrangements for the French horn and string quartet. The album comprises **Johannes Brahms's** legendary Quintet in G major, Op. 111, arranged by Radek Baborák and Alexei Aslamas, two shorter works by **Alexander Glazunov** (Idylle and Serenade No. 2), and Quintet in G minor by **Jean Sibelius**, which Baborák created by extending the original score of Sibelius's early String Trio and gave it the epithet "Käyrätörvi" (French horn in Finnish). The recording brings the world premiere of the arrangements of works by Brahms and Sibelius which **Baborák Ensemble** performs in the following line-up: **Radek Baborák** (French horn), **Milan Al-Ashhab** and **Martina Bačová** (violin), **Karel Untermüller** (viola), and **Hana Baboráková** (cello). Radek Baborák has been long dedicating himself to arranging classical-music repertoire for his chamber ensembles and thus expanding the repertoire for French horn,

with the present album being important addition to that catalogue. Especially romantic repertoire for the French horn is rather limited, despite the fact that, as Baborák himself remarks, *"there are only very few instruments whose timbre so purely evokes romantic sentiments"*. He adds: *"My friends in the Baborák Ensemble and myself have a weak spot for romantic music which for us represents what's best in music. Our ensemble performs a broad range of repertoire; we play music from all epochs but the basic line-up is the horn quintet where the core of the repertoire comes from classicism and (on a much more limited scale) the twentieth century. As this recording shows, however, the situation has been changing."*

The album *"Horn Quintets"* will be released on **17 June 2022** and **launched** on **25 June** as part of a concert performance, Matinée with Baborák Ensemble at **Smetanova Litomyšl** festival <https://smetanovalitomysl.cz/udalosti/matine-s-baborak-ensemble/>. Baborák Ensemble will perform the same programme also on 24 June in Plasy, as part of Art Walks festival.

The album was recorded in April 2022 at Sono Records studio Doupě, produced by Petr Ostrouchov and mastered by Adam Karlík. The cover design is by Aleš Najbrt, the author of photographs is Václav Jirásek. The album is released by Animal Music label as part of its Edition 2022, which has been kindly supported by a grant from City of Prague and by the State Culture Fund of the Czech Republic. The album is distributed internationally by Supraphon (on CD and digitally) and is available also from the publisher's e-shop at www.animalmusic.cz.

The phenomenal French horn player and conductor **Radek Baborák** 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 orchestras. His instrumental mastery has taken him to the absolute top of his field and he regularly appears as soloist with the most renowned world orchestras and conductors. Since he left his post with the Berlin Philharmonic in 2010, Baborák has been focussing on solo performance and conducting and has founded his own quintet, Baborák Ensemble, which frequently performs in larger formations as well, including Radek Baborák Orquestrina. The line-up of his chamber ensembles alters according to the requirements of the individual projects which often feature music arranged especially for the ensemble, with the arrangements initiated or created by Baborák himself. Since the 2020/2021 season he has been chief conductor of the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra of Mariánské Lázně, the oldest

orchestra in the Czech Republic. 2014 saw the beginning of his fruitful collaboration with Animal Music that has so far yielded six albums.

www.baborak.com

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