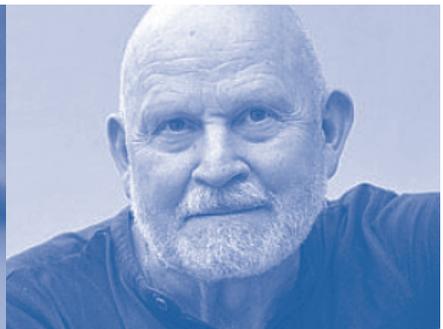

THE MUSIC MAKERS

In collaboration with **Sinfonietta Rīga**
Normunds Šnē, conductor
Thiago Bordin, choreographer
presents

L'Histoire du Soldat **Igor Stravinsky** Little Summer Music **Pēteris Vasks**

DANCE • MUSIC • DRAMA



“Most people today no longer possess beliefs, love, and ideals. The spiritual dimension has been lost. My intention is to provide food for the soul, and this is what I preach in my works.”

— Pēteris Vasks

Overview

This collaborative chamber production focuses on work by two composers whose oeuvres have explored the topics of humanistic ideals and the realities of human nature. **Igor Stravinsky**, born in Oranienbaum, a Baltic resort near St. Petersburg, and **Pēteris Vasks**, who grew up in post-war Soviet Latvia, were from different generations – Vasks was just 25 years old when Stravinsky died in 1971 at 88. They are important creative voices of their respective generations, both deeply influenced by the rich folk traditions of Eastern Europe and the all too real perils of their times. Stravinsky voiced his concerns about war and the fateful choices we make while Vasks has been driven by mankind’s assault on the environment.

Both Igor Stravinsky’s *L’Histoire du Soldat* and Pēteris Vasks’ *Little Summer Music* features the premiere performances of new choreography by critically acclaimed dancer-choreographer **Thiago Bordin**.

The production is realized by an internationally renowned group of collaborators: violinists **Vadim Gluzman**, **Liza Ferschtman**, and **Marc Bouchkov**; pianist **Angela Yoffe**; dancers **Silvia Azzoni**, **Alexandre Riabko**, **Marijn Rademaker**; conductor **Normunds Šnē** and members of the **Sinfonietta Riga**. The Music Maker’s signature **Onstage/offstage** dialogue between these artists and the audience creates a dynamic, candid forum between everyone that is participating.

The concert is paired with **The Workshop**, a unique model of educational outreach that simultaneously embraces the arts of music, dance, and theater where students have the opportunity to collaborate together with these celebrated performers.



Marijn Rademaker with students

“Passing along love, integrity and joy of my profession to a younger generation is one of the most important things one can do as an artist” — Marijn Rademaker

Collaboration between Generations: The Workshop

At the core of the Stravinsky-Vasks project is its unique model of educational outreach which simultaneously embraces the arts of music, dance, and theater. The Workshop creates a forum where internationally acclaimed artists in each of these disciplines share their knowledge and experiences with the next generation, empowering them to think creatively and collaboratively as artist.

The Workshop is more than a masterclass. Instead of giving masterclasses on a particular work of ballet, classical music, or theater - we combine them. Imagine your students dancing together with world class dancers, performing together with world class musicians and acting a dialogue with veteran actors. The aim is to convey the art of collaboration and in finding an intimate, intrinsic and intuitive connection between artists and disciplines, just as Stravinsky did with *L'Histoire du Soldat*.



Vadim Gluzman with students



“Teaching ballett is not only passing on the knowledge of ballett technique but transmitting your passion towards the art and hopefully the little seed that you plant in a young mind will grow into a beautiful tree.” — Silvia Azzoni

About Us

The Music Makers is the international parent organization behind the annual North Shore Chamber Music Festival in Chicago, Illinois, the Arkady Fomin Scholarship Fund, and Music Makers International. The organization invests in the cultural life of places around the world that it loves through life-affirming performances, inspiring musical exploration talks, and pre-professional career development scholarships for students.

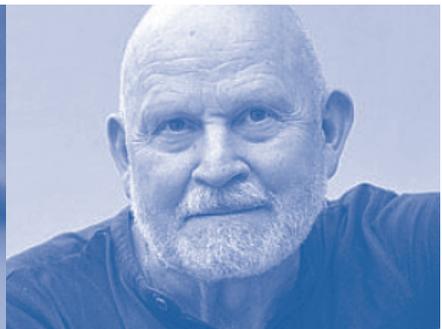
The Music Makers’ purpose is to assist in the artistic development of our next generation of artists, supporting them in the most formative years of their lives with important guidance and career connections. At the same time, it strives to provide a high quality and meaningful arts experience to the general public that is welcoming to concert goers who are new to classical music. www.musicmakers.org

Igor Stravinsky

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was a Russian-born composer, pianist, and conductor. He is widely considered one of the most important composers of the 20th century and one of the most influential figures in musical history. Stravinsky went to law school before embarking on private composition lessons with Rimsky-Korsakov and beginning his legendary collaboration with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in Paris. Early works such as the *The Firebird* and *The Rite of Spring* were dissonant, rhythmic and often contained references to Russian folk song. Following a neo-classical phase which lasted thirty years, Stravinsky shocked the musical establishment by adopting serialism in his later years. His professional life encompassed most of the 20th century and he influenced composers both during and after his lifetime. Stravinsky leaves an enduring legacy as a musical revolutionary who pushed the boundaries of musical design.

Pēteris Vasks

The music of Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks (b.1946) is often associated with his country's struggle for independence. Deeply rooted in the rich folk tradition of Latvia and inspired by the timeless beauty of nature, Vasks entire oeuvre is informed by the tragic dichotomy between humanistic ideals and the historical realities of violence and despair. The threat of ecological and moral destruction are key themes of his work. Born in 1946, Vasks, who studied the double bass at the Lithuanian State Conservatory from 1964 to 1970, worked as an orchestra musician in the 1960s and 1970s. He studied composition with Valentinus Utkins, at the Latvian State Conservatory in Riga, graduating in 1978. Working as a composer since the late '70s, Vasks is now one of the most influential and praised European contemporary composers.



The Soldier's Tale

L'Histoire du soldat (The Soldier's Tale) is a theatrical work "to be read, played, and danced" and originally scored for by a septet of instruments, three actors, and one or several dancers. The piece was conceived by Igor Stravinsky and Swiss writer C. F. Ramuz and based on a Russian folk tale drawn from the collection of Alexander Afanasyev called *The Runaway Soldier and the Devil*. It was premiered in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 28 September 1918, and conducted by Ernest Ansermet.

Ramuz's libretto relates the parable of a soldier named Joseph who trades his beloved fiddle to the devil in return for unlimited economic gain and luxury only to realize too late that "no one can have it all" and that great wealth doesn't buy you happiness.

Our production is scored for the following ensemble:

**3 dancers | actor | conductor | violin | double bass | clarinet
bassoon | trumpet | trombone | percussion**

Little Summer Music

Composed by Pēteris Vasks in 1985, this six-movement suite for violin and piano is particularly suitable as a listener's first introduction to contemporary music. The movements alternate in moods between contemplative and joyful, making it also an ideal work to incorporate the expressive and responsive movement of dance, designed by award-winning choreographer Thiago Bordin.

Broad, resonant (Plaši, skanīgi)

Unhurried (Nesteidzot)

Energetic (Enerģiski)

Sad (Skumji)

Joyful (Līksmi)

Broad, resonant (Plaši, skanīgi)

Our production is scored for the following ensemble:

3 dancers | violin | piano

Thiago Bordin, choreographer

Brazilian-German dancer and choreographer began his professional dance career in 2001 at the Hamburg Ballet, becoming a Principal Dancer in 2006, and dancing the lead roles in many of John Neumeier's ballets, many of which were created just for him. From 2014 to 2017 he was a member of critically acclaimed Nederlands Dans Theater and now makes guest appearances with dance companies around the world. Winner of numerous awards, Bordin has choreographed since 2001, creating works for the Bundesjugendballett and Hamburg Ballet dancers, the Akademie des Tanzes in Mannheim, the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe in Germany), and São Paulo Companhia de Danca in Brazil.

Normunds Šnē, conductor

Normunds Šnē is a Latvian conductor and oboist. He has conducted the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, the Latvian Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, the Latvian National Opera, the City of Liepaja Symphony Orchestra, Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Ostrobothnian Orchestra. He is Founder and Artistic Director of the Rīgas Kamermuzikā and the Grammy-winning State Chamber Orchestra Sinfonietta Rīga. His interests center around music of the baroque and Viennese classical periods, and especially the great composers of the 20th century. He has recorded the works of Latvian composer Arturs Maskats and Terje Rypdal for the BIS and ECM labels.

Sinfonietta Rīga

Youthful ardour and the joy of discovery are traits that best describe the Grammy-winning State Chamber Orchestra Sinfonietta Rīga. Sinfonietta Rīga musicians are young, erudite and bursting with creativity. They explore the musical heritage of the Viennese Schools and 20th century masters, while working with the leading contemporary composers. They have collaborated with a wide range of acclaimed artists, such as pianist Yevgeny Sudbin, violinist Isabelle Faust, cellist Sol Gabetta, the Artemis Quartet, and choreographer Tõnu Kaljuste. They are frequent guests of festivals in Latvia and abroad, and received the Grand Latvian Music Award three times. www.sinfoniettariga.lv

Vadim Gluzman, violin

Vadim Gluzman's extraordinary artistry brings to life the glorious violinistic tradition of the 19th and 20th centuries. Gluzman appears with major orchestras around the world such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, London Symphony, Orchestre de Paris, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Royal Concertgebouw alongside today's leading conductors, Christoph von Dohnányi, Riccardo Chailly, Tugan Sokhiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir Andrew Davis and Neeme Järvi, Osmo Vänskä and Michail Jurowski.

www.vadimgluzman.com

Liza Ferschtman, violin

Dutch violinist Liza Ferschtman is known for her strong stage presence, imaginative programming and communicative qualities. Equally at home as a soloist with orchestra's like the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony as in the world's most prestigious chamber music venues. Her discography spans works from four centuries and has been received with great critical acclaim. As artistic director of the Delft Chamber Music Festival Liza has brought many art forms together to create multi-disciplinary projects and has a keen love for the collaboration with dancers and choreographers.

www.lizaferschtman.com

Marc Bouchkov, violin

Marc Bouchkov was born in France to a family of violinists. He is prize winner of the Queen Elizabeth Competition, the Montreal International Musical Competition, and most recently was awarded the second prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition and honored with the music prize of the Kulturstiftung Dortmund. Bouchkov has enjoyed a rapidly growing and widely acclaimed career as a concert artist. He is a frequent guest at international music festivals and with Europe's leading orchestras, enjoying special collaborations with Mariinsky Theatre and Valery Gergiev and with the Hamburg Ballet and John Neumeier.

www.bouchkov.com

Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* was from its beginning a mixed-media theatrical work "to be read, played, and danced" by a compact troop of musicians, actors and dancers.

The Music Makers production of *L'Histoire du Soldat* premieres all new choreography by critically acclaimed dancer and choreographer **Thiago Bordin**.

Mr. Bordin also brings dance to Pēteris Vasks' *Little Summer Music* suite for violin and piano, marking the first time this work has been choreographed.



choreographer **Thiago Bordin**

Angela Yoffe, piano

Pianist, producer, and educator, Angela Yoffe, is widely admired for her dazzling musicianship and passion for music education. Born in Riga, Yoffe is founder and executive director of The Music Makers, an organization that produces Chicago's annual North Shore Chamber Music Festival, the Music Makers International, and the Arkady Fomin Scholarship Fund. Ms. Yoffe performs as a chamber musician and recitalist around the world and records exclusively for BIS Records.

<https://nscmf.org/artists/angela-yoffe-2/>

Marijn Rademaker, dancer

Marijn Rademaker was born in the Netherlands and joined the Stuttgart Ballett in 2000 where he was promoted to principal dancer soon after. In 2015, he joined the Dutch National Ballett and since 2019 freelances around the world. He has danced the main roles in nearly all classical ballets, and also works by John Cranko, Jerome Robbins, Kenneth McMillan, Jiri Kylian, Maurice Bejart, John Neumeier, Hans van Manen, William Forsythe, George Balanchine, Glen Tetley, Marco Goecke, Wayne McGregor, Christian Spuck, and Mauro Bigonzetti. Awards include the 'Grand Prix' at the Dance Open Festival in St. Petersburg; the "Der Faust" German theatre prize; the 'Future' dance award, Germany; the international 'Premio Apuliarte' prize; and a prestigious 'Prix de Benoit' nomination.

www.marijnrademaker.com

Silvia Azzoni, dancer

Silvia Azzoni joined the Hamburg Ballett in 1993. In 1996 she became a soloist with the company and in 2001 was promoted to a principal dancer. Her repertoire includes the leading rôles in more than 20 ballets created by legendary choreographer John Neumeier. Her repertoire also includes leading rôles in the ballets by Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Mats Ek, Christopher Wheeldon and Jiří Bubeníček. As a guest ballerina she performs in Munich, Moscow, Milan, Tokyo, Warsaw, Vienna, Cremona, Verona, Macerata, Taormina, New York and Australia.

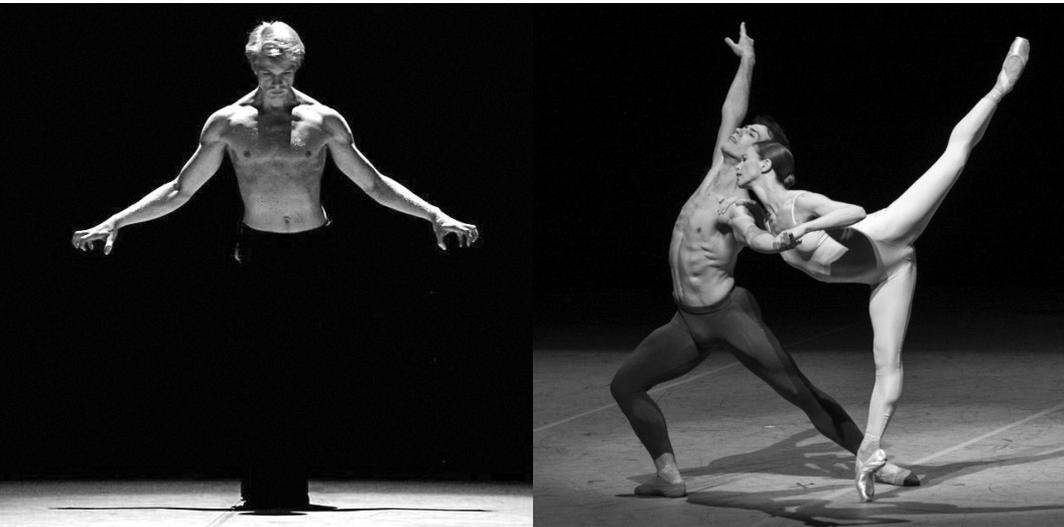
www.hamburgballett.de

Collaborators

Alexandre Riabko, dancer

Alexandre Riabko is a Ukrainian ballet dancer, and a principal dancer of the Hamburg Ballet. Riabko was born in Kiev, and trained at the Kiev Ballet School under Vladimir Denisenko. After reaching the finals of the Prix de Lausanne, he continued his studies at the School of the Hamburg Ballet with Anatoli Nisnevich and Kevin Haigen. He joined the Hamburg Ballet in 1996 and was promoted to soloist in 1999 and principal dancer in 2001. In 2016 he was awarded a special Prix Benois de la Danse for excellence in partnering.

www.hamburgballett.de





For production and booking information, please contact:

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