



# MAISONS DANGEREUSES

INA KANCHEVA & DUO JATEKOK

## MURDERER, THE HOPE OF WOMEN

### CAN ONE LOVE A MURDERER?

Can one love a murderer? In the chamber opera "Madame Landru" by Italian composer Roberto Hazon (1930-2006), Alex certainly loves Cynzia. And Hazon noticeably sympathises with his "villain", a woman who takes her life into her own hands! How wonderful! Madame Landru appears to be a kindred spirit of Shostakovich's "Lady Macbeth of Mzensk", a female Duke Bluebeard of sorts: yearning for love, capable of deep feelings, but also energetic and self-determined. Cynzia kills with a light touch, disappointed the trust she places in men is habitually abused. One of these men furthers his career at her expense, another exploits her as a campaign aid for his public speeches, the third seeks a cosy place to drink, while the last makes her pay for his countless affairs. Finally, she meets someone who truly loves her, someone who is not after her money. But he's a lawyer. What is a lawyer supposed to do with the exalted, temperamental confession of a murderer?

In 1962, Hazon devised a sound for his murderer, brimming with all that's successful about opera: Sometimes, the singer luxuriates in smouldering Puccini cantilenas, sometimes, she giggles about her latest deed in a crude operetta style. Then, the pianos thunder and clatter like a song play by Kurt Weill, only to engage in a sophisticated interplay reminiscent of Claude Debussy's "Jeux". And most of the time and between the lines, the notes exude the deadly serious comedy of a Charlie Chaplin who, in turn, took inspiration from a real murderer called Landru for his "Monsieur Verdoux". "... and dies, ... and dies, ... and dies!" Viennese comedian Georg Kreisler's "Opera Boogie" pinpoints the gist of most musical theatre history. At the same time, all that opera does is hold up a relentless mirror to human society. Whether Adam, Adonai, Gennaro or Pierre Marie – Cynzia and Alex easily leave them all behind. And unlike the kind of opera invoked by Kreisler, Hazon's chamber opera can be staged anytime. Two pianos played by a masterfully Duo Jatekok, a passionate singer like the soprano Ina Kancheva and a besotted lawyer who asks the right questions – that's all it takes!

To this music concept of Dangerous Liaisons, we would add an extracts arrangement of Kurt Weill's play "Marie Gallant", as well as several pieces from Bizet, Chausson and Schönberg for an exciting full evening program.

**Ernest Chausson/Arr.Simon Nebout**  
'La Chanson perpétuelle' op.37

**Arnold Schönberg**  
'Erwartung' op.2

**Roberto Hazon (1930-2006) /Ida Hazon Vallardi**  
'Madame Landru'(1962)- chamber opera in one act  
for soprano and two grand pianos

**Georges Bizet/Arr. Richard Simm**  
Carmen: Concert Suite for two pianos

**Kurt Weill/Arr. Antoni Donchev**  
Extracts from 'Marie Gallant'  
play with music in two acts



INA KANCHEVA

Ina Kancheva was born in Sofia and has dedicated herself to the arts since the age of six. She has already toured the world as a soloist with the famous children's choir of Bulgarian national radio. She graduated from high school for theater and fine arts. From the age of 19, she studied opera singing at the State Academy of Music in Sofia and made her master specialization with her teachers in Italy and Spain. She won numerous prizes in several important international competitions such as Monserrat Caballe, As.Li.Co, Viotti, Manuel Ausensi, DEBUT among others.

Ina Kancheva was a member of the Hannover State Opera and Stuttgart State Opera ensembles in Germany. She is now based in Berlin.

Ina has also accepted invitations from opera houses such as the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, the Royal Danish Opera (Copenhagen) and the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia (Valencia). Ina Kancheva is a regular guest at international music festivals such as the Festival de musique Baroque d'Ambronay (France), the Rossini Opera Festival (Italy) and the Prague Spring International Music Festival (Czech Republic) etc..

She works with renowned orchestras and conductors such as Sir Neville Marriner, Vladimir Jurowski, Vasily Petrenko, Cornelius Meister, Enrique Mazzola, Manfred Honeck, Alberto Zedda, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Jiri Belohlavek, Julia Jones and René Jacobs among others.

She released her CD "Pauline Viardot" on Toccata Classics with pianist Ludmil Angelov. As part of a Deutschlandfunk Kultur production Berlin, Ina took on the role of Madame Landru in the unknown chamber opera "Madame Landru" by Roberto Hazon and began an artistic relationship with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin (RSB) with numerous recordings and concerts. She is producing her own festival CULTURAMA Fest and promoting national scholarship for young artists in her native Bulgaria.

With their enthusiasm and contagious energy, they are the French piano duo currently making their mark on French and international stages. Since 2011, Nairi Badal and Adélaïde Panaget have formed the Duo Jatekok, Hungarian for "game". An idea that will become their signature. Following in the footsteps of their critically acclaimed albums "Dances", "The Boys" and "Carnaval", they offer each concert a musical cocktail that reflects their dynamism and expressiveness. They regularly appear as soloists or with orchestra at the Festival de la Roque d'Anthéron, the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Seine musicale in Paris, the Salle Flagey and Bozar in Brussels, as well as the Nouveau siècle in Lille, the Opéra de Tours, Folle Journée in Nantes and Warsaw, the Shenzhen Philharmonic, Hong Kong, Guatemala, Glasgow... They are regularly invited by the orchestras of Lille, Geneva, Brussels, Guatemala, the BBC orchestra... Since 2023, they have been associate artists with the Opéra de Limoges. They also multiply opportunities to present original projects to the public, whether through sand drawing, mime or hip hop. Crossover doesn't scare them, so much so that they've been asked to open for German metal band Rammstein on their tour of European and American stadiums in 2019 and 2022. To mark the occasion, they recorded their "Duo Jatekok plays Rammstein" arrangements for Universal. Nairi Badal and Adélaïde Panaget have won over a public that recognizes their sincerity, their delicacy and their talent. Jatekok: playing the piano, with the piano, four hands, 2 pianos, classical, contemporary, with the audience, with other musicians, other soloists. Playing is the essence of their Duo.



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