



# 3rd London Festival of Bulgarian Culture

20 October - 17 December 2014

## Programme

Monday, 20th October 2014, 7.30pm  
Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ

## Grand Festival Opening: 'Classical' meets 'Ethno Jazz'

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
Vania Vatrlova-Stankov - soprano  
Theodosii Spassov - kaval (end-blown flute)  
Rastko Rasic - percussion (special guest)  
Martin Panteleev - conductor

### Booking information:

Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, SW1X 9DQ  
Box Office: 020 7730 4500  
Online Booking: [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)  
(booking fees apply)



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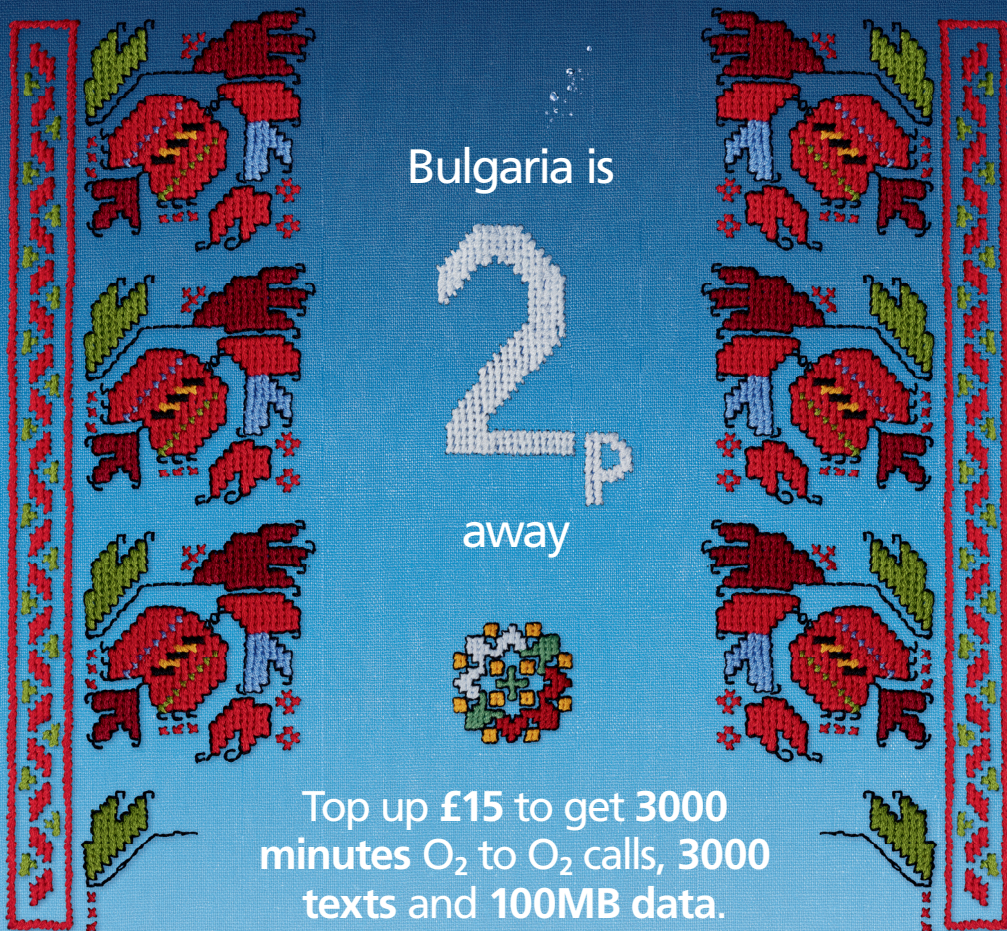
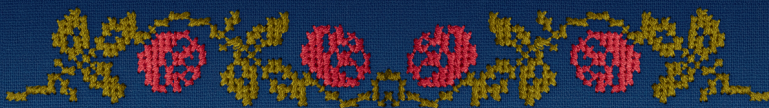
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**Georgi Andreev**  
(1969 - )

**Two arrangements of Bulgarian traditional songs**  
(UK Première)

Лале ли си, Зюмбюл ли си / Lale li si, Zyumbyul li si  
Девојко, мѝри хубава / Devoiko, muri hubava

**Soloist: Vania Vatrалova – Stankov - soprano**

**Marin Goleminov**  
(1908 - 2000)

**Three miniatures for soprano and string orchestra**  
(UK Première)

Стар обред / Old Ritual  
Изчакване / Awaiting  
Щастие / Happiness

**Soloist: Vania Vatrалova – Stankov - soprano**

**Dobrinka Tabakova**  
(1980 - )

**Fantasia homage to Schubert for string orchestra**  
(UK Première)

**Martin Pantelev**  
(1977 - )

**Archetype for string orchestra**  
(World Première)

INTERVAL

**Theodosii Spassov**  
(1961 - )

Бразая / Brazaia  
О'Майно хоро / O'Maino Horo  
Пуста младост / Pusta Mladost  
Юнус Емре / Yunus Emre  
Дунав блус / Dunav Blues  
Цигански танц / Gipsy Dance  
Отворено настроение / Open Mood

**Soloists: Theodosii Spassov – kaval**  
**Rastko Rasic – percussion (special Guest)**

# Vania Vatrlova-Stankov - soprano

ARTISTS

Described by critics as having 'a lyric voice, but one which has a richness and depth to it' the soprano is following in the tradition of the famous Bulgarian operatic voices with international recognition.

Vania's performances on the opera and concert stage have been celebrated by both the critics and the audiences. 'Opera Magazine' praised her performance of Ana Bolena's role stating that she 'sang with the kind of determination that defies categorization'. On the opera stage Vania has recently performed at the Varna State Opera in Bulgaria the title roles in Rigoletto, La Traviata, and Carmen. She has performed as well for Swansea City Opera in theatres in Wales such as Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury, Taliesin Arts Centre in Swansea, Theatre Brycheiniog (Brecon), and the Adelina Patti Theatre (Craig-Y-Nos). In addition Vania has appeared in the title roles in La Traviata, Rusalka, and Ana Bolena, with the Welsh National Opera School as well as Donna Ana (Don Giovanni), Fiordeligi (Cosi Fan Tutte), and Michaela (Carmen), with the Royal Opera School in Madrid.

She has given recitals at Belcanto Dordrecht Festival (Holland), Peralada Festival (Barcelona), and at major International Festivals in Bulgaria such as Sofia Music Weeks, Varna Summer, and Sofia Winter. Vania has sung the mainstream oratorio, concert and operatic repertoire in Bulgaria, Spain and the UK, in venues such as Palau De La Musica (Valencia), Cadogan Hall (London), Bulgarian National Hall, and the National Palace of Culture (NDK) amongst others. She has worked with orchestras such as English Chamber Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic, and Sofia Soloists Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Alexander Kantorov, Alex Ingram, Yordan Kamdzhakov, and Stephano Seghedoni, to name a few.

Vania has taken Master Classes with Renata Scotto, Montserrat Caballé, and Mirella Freni. She was a finalist in the Premio Caruso Competition in Italy and the Logroño International Competition in Spain, where she was also awarded the competition's only scholarship. The Bulgarian soprano is a recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, including awards from the Spanish Ministry of Education, the Donizetti Award from the Welsh National Opera School for two consecutive years, and an award from the Belcanto Festival in Doodrecht (Holland).



Equally interested in chamber music Vania formed "Stankov Ensemble" with her husband the violinist Ivo Stankov. The duo has performed with English Chamber Orchestra and Sofia Soloists, a number of world premieres dedicated especially to them by composers such as Gheorghii Arnaoudov, Dobrinka Tabakova, Martin Georgiev and Gwyn Pritchard. Stankov Ensemble recently participated to critical acclaim in a number of International Festivals in Bulgaria and recorded their first CD at the Bulgarian National Radio.

Vania has also recorded for the major Bulgarian and Spanish Television and Radio Channels - BNR, RTVE, Antena 3, Canal 9, and TV3. As well as her numerous recordings for TV and Radio Vania recorded on CD the music to 'Misterio de Elche' (Mystery of Elche) – a spectacle declared by UNESCO as Patrimony of the Humanity Treasure. Her debut CD album 'Operatic Favourites' was also critically acclaimed by 'Music and Vision' - "...she seems to have a lyric voice, but one which has a richness and depth to it... Here (in Turandot) Vatrlova-Stankov sounds a little like Caballé in the role...".



# Theodosii Spassov - kaval (Bulgarian wooden flute)

ARTISTS

Theodosii Spassov was born on March 4th, 1961. He began his early training on the kaval at the Kotel Music School and The Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv/Bulgaria. The kaval, an eight-hole wooden "shepherd" flute, is one of the oldest instruments in Europe, rich in tone and technical possibilities. Theodosii Spassov has developed his own unique style of playing the instrument by synthesizing traditional folklore with jazz, fusion and classical music.

For over 20 years, Theodosii has toured all over Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Australia, Canada and United States. In 1994, he performed with Sofia Women's Radio Choir which was awarded with a Grammy award for "Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares". In April of 1995, "Newsweek" magazine recognized Theodosii Spassov as one of the most talented Eastern-European musicians in its "best of the East" article, noting that "Spassov... is not merely surviving the post-communist cultural wasteland. He has actually invented a new musical genre."

Theodosii Spassov has contributed to 20 CDs, four of his own, which have been noted worldwide. He has composed and performed numerous film scores including a French-Bulgarian feature film "Granitzza", ("The Border") 1993. Also he recorded themes for films by Italian composers Carlos Siliotto and Ennio Morricone, entitled "An Italian Story" and "The Breakout of the Innocent". At the fourth European Jazz Night, Theodosii Spassov was a featured performer along with other jazz musicians, including Winton Marsalis.

At home in Bulgaria, Theodosii Spassov is national figure and musical hero, and was recently honored with the "Music Artist of the Year" award. He is the Artistic Director of the world-renown "PHILIP KOUTEV Ensemble Of Music, Drama And Dance". Theodosii is currently member of the company of the Irish music and dance "Riverdance"- (1998-2001). Now he is a soloist of Bulgarian National Radio.

Theodosii gets everything out of his KAVAL when playing his unique compositions. They include elements of traditional folklore music as well as jazz, classical music and even pop. His very own way of playing has not only impressed audiences during his concerts and festival appearances, but also fellow musicians, who cooperated with Theodosii Spassov in the past years. Among them



are Dave Liebman, Andy Sheppard, Yldiz Ibrahimova, Ennio Morricone, Jamey Haddad, Albert Mangelsdorff, Mark Johnson, Kazumi Watanabe and many others.

With his amazing trio, Theodosii Spassov performed in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, India, Israel, Japan, Nepal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the U.K., the U.S. and of course in Bulgaria, where he is known as a national hero. All over the world, he is known as a GRAMMY WINNER (with "Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares", 1994), as a movie score composer and genius performer. His steadily growing fan community is addicted to his music.

## Rastko Rasic - Percussion (special guest)

Rastko grew up in Belgrade, Serbia playing trumpet as a child and later, classical percussion. After graduating from Berklee College of Music in United States, he moved to London where he had immersed himself in music scenes as diverse as his musical interests, from jazz to pop to world music, playing drum kit and hand percussion. He is a founder member of the band 'Paprika'.

# Martin Pantelev – Conductor and Composer

ARTISTS

Born into a family of musicians, Martin Pantelev took his first violin lessons at the age of four. From 1983 to 1995 he studied at "Lyubomir Pipkov" National School of Music in his home town of Sofia. He continued his education at the Bulgarian State Academy of Music in the violin class of Prof. J. Radionoff, while also studying conducting and composition with Maestro Vassil Kazandjiev and Prof. Plamen Djourov.

Prof. Vladi Simeonoff recognized Pantelev's musical talent already in 1985 inviting him to lead the "Young Philharmonie Pioneer". With just nine years of age he played his first concerts in Italy, Greece, Brazil and Russia.

Since 1999 as associate conductor of the prestigious „Philharmonia of the Nations“ founded by Leonard Bernstein and Justus Frantz, he performed in excess of 1,000 concerts with the orchestra in Europe, Asia and the USA.

After his Debut with Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra in 2004, he was invited as principal guest conductor and from 2011/2012 season he is named new chief conductor of the orchestra.

Martin Pantelev has worked with over 30 different orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, Berliner Symphoniker, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, Schleswig-Holstein Sinfonieorchester, Orchestra of Stadttheater Trier, Orquesta Symphonica di Lecce and many others. He appeared in concert halls such as Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw, Berliner Philharmonie, Grand Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory. Festival appearances include Rheingau Musikfestival, MDR Musiksommer and Schleswig-Holsten Musikfestival.



After a very successful tour of the USA with Sofia Festival Orchestra in 2008, Pantelev returned to the U.S. to conduct an 18-city tour in 2011 with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra who made history as the first African orchestra in the history performing in the USA. Since 2012 Pantelev is Principal Guest Conductor of the orchestra. Martin Pantelev is also a prolific composer, having written three Symphonies for big symphony orchestra, Cantata for choir, orchestra and soloists "Planet Steps", Percussion concerto and others. His compositions were performed in Germany, China, South Africa, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

## **Archetype for string orchestra (2014) (World Première)**

Archetypes are genetically embedded in the structure of the human brain. They manifest when we are dreaming, feeling ecstatic or creating music. They manifested to me because through the music I am rediscovering myself.

The main theme of the work is taken from the Bulgarian folklore, and is in irregular time which gradually transforms into a romantic line, a remembrance of it. The two emotional conditions are in conflict briefly before establishing a joint pulse and merging creating a new world.



## ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

[www.rpo.co.uk](http://www.rpo.co.uk)

Patron: HRH The Duke of York, KG  
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor: Charles Dutoit

Its first London concert was reported to have filled the hall 'with golden tone which enveloped the listener'. Since that 1946 performance, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) has enjoyed more than sixty-five years of success, upholding the legacy of its debonair founder Sir Thomas Beecham. Now under the inspiring leadership of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Charles Dutoit, the Orchestra continues to bring first-class performances of a wide range of musical repertoire to worldwide audiences.

The Orchestra has always prided itself on the artistic calibre of its conductors, including Rudolf Kempe, Antal Doráti, André Previn and, more recently, Daniele Gatti. Other highly regarded artists who regularly take the podium today include Principal Guest Conductor Pinchas Zukerman and Principal Associate Conductor Grzegorz Nowak.

The Orchestra's London home is Cadogan Hall, just off Sloane Square, in which the intimate environment is ideal for orchestral performances, with upcoming concerts featuring Natasha Paremski, Leon McCawley, Martyn Brabbins, Janina

Fialkowska and Freddy Kempf. Also key to the Orchestra's schedule is the annual concert series at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, which, in its 2014–2015 season, boasts performances from Charles Dutoit, Pinchas Zukerman, Marc-André Hamelin and Thomas Dausgaard. The last of the Orchestra's major London venues is the prestigious Royal Albert Hall, where audiences can experience performances that range from large-scale choral and orchestral repertoire to themed evenings of familiar works.

Further afield in the UK, the Orchestra enjoys established residencies in Croydon, Northampton, Hull, Lowestoft, Reading, Crawley, Ipswich, High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Dartford, as part of its extensive regional touring programme. Other venues on the agenda this season include Birmingham Symphony Hall, Cliffs Pavilion in Southend, Cheltenham Town Hall, G Live in Guildford, The Baths Hall in Scunthorpe and Cambridge Corn Exchange.





Last year saw the launch of RPO Rewards – an app for smartphones and tablets that allows lovers of live music to browse and book tickets for selected RPO concerts at London venues and a number of regional venues around the UK.

Complementing these performances, RPO resound, the Orchestra's vibrant community and education programme, pioneers projects that are designed to promote engagement with and access to music-making. Specially trained musicians from the Orchestra work alongside project leaders to deliver workshops in a wide variety of settings, from homeless shelters to hospices; youth clubs to prisons; libraries to aquariums. Launched in 1993, RPO resound is still one of the most celebrated programmes of its kind in the UK.

The Orchestra also enjoys a busy schedule overseas, undertaking several international tours each year, with recent engagements including concerts in Mexico, Germany, Spain, Poland and China. The current season began with the fifth year of the Orchestra's annual residency in Montreux, Switzerland, where it gave performances under Charles Dutoit and was joined by soloists Radu Lupu and James Ehnes. Highlights this season include performances with Martha Argerich, Francesco Piemontesi and Alban Gerhardt in Switzerland, Italy and Austria, as well as gala concerts in Moscow and St Petersburg and a January tour to Florida with Pinchas Zukerman.

Alongside its thriving live performance schedule, the Orchestra records prolifically for film, television and all the major commercial record companies. It also owns its own record label, with an extensive catalogue of recordings, and was the first London orchestra to stream its entire series of concerts live from Cadogan Hall.

# Georgi Andreev - composer

ARTISTS

Georgi Andreev was born 1969 in Haskovo, Bulgaria, where he began studying music at a young age. In 1988, Georgi graduated from the School of Folklore Music "Shiroka Laka" where he majored in the gadulka, which is a traditional Bulgarian bowstring instrument. In 1997, he went on to complete the class of composing at the Academy of Music "Pancho Vladigerov," graduating with honors. A winner of multiple national awards, Georgi has directed numerous national orchestras and ensembles, composing for the Bulgarian national radio and authoring more than 400 songs and plays. Georgi Andreev brilliantly merges classical choral-orchestral music with traditional rhythms and folk styles that are rarely encountered today. Georgi Andreev is also a chief conductor of the famous Bulgarian National Folklore Ensemble Filip Kutev. The two traditional songs you will hear have been commissioned especially for tonight's concert.



## Лале ли си, Зюмбюл ли си

Що побърза млад челеби, та заспа,  
та не види какво чудо помина.  
Лале ли си, зюмбюл ли си, гюл ли си!

Че минаха дор три вакли, овчеря,  
първи носи руйно вино да пият,  
втори носи меден кавал да свири.  
Лале ли си, зюмбюл ли си, гюл ли си!

## Девојко, мѐри хубава

Девојко, мари, хубава, девојко,  
сипни ми винце да пийна, девојко, (x2)  
да пия, да се напия, девојко...

балното да си кажиме, девојко,  
чие е бално по множко, девојко, (x2)  
мойно или твоино, девојко

Моесо бално по множко, юначе,  
че имам руба да правя, юначе, (x2)  
и имам дари да стегам, юначе

Моесо бално по множко, девојко,  
че имам служба да sluja, девојко. (x2)  
и имам коща да градя, девојко

Моесо бално по множко, девојко,  
че нема да се зомиме, девојко. (x2)

## Lale li si, Zyumbyul li si

Shto poburza mlad chelebi, ta zaspa,  
Ta ne vidi kakvo chudo pomina  
Lale li si, zyumbyul li si, gyul li si!

Che minaha dor tri vakli, ovcheria,  
purvi nosi ruino vino da piat,  
Vtori nosi meden kaval da sviri.  
Lale li si, zyumbyul li si, gyul li si!

## Devoiko, muri hubava

Devoiko, muri, hubava, devoiko,  
sipni mi vince da pijna, devoiko, (x2)  
da pija, da se napija, devoiko...

balnoto da si kajime, devoiko,  
chie e balno po mnojko, devoiko, (x2)  
moino ili tvoino, devoiko

Moeso balno po mnojko, iunache,  
che imam ruba da pravja, iunache, (x2)  
i imam dari da stegam, iunache

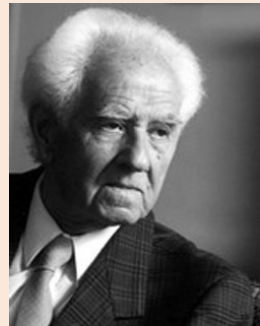
Moeso balno po mnojko, iunache,  
che imam slujba da sluja, devoiko. (x2)  
i imam koshta da gradia, devoiko

Moeso balno po mnojko, devoiko,  
che nema da se zomime, devoiko. (x2)

# Marin Goleminov - composer

ARTISTS

He belongs to the second generation of Bulgarian artists. He educated generations of Bulgarian musicians. His work initiated a music movement in Bulgarian culture marked by the use of Bulgarian traditional music elements interwoven with an original style and vision. He graduated from the State Academy of Music in 1931. He studied Violin with Professor Todor Torchanov and music theory subjects with Professor Dobri Hristov and Professor Nikola Atanassov. From 1931 to 1934 he studied at the Schola Cantorum in Paris majoring in Composition under Professor Vincent d'Indy, Paul le Flemm and Albert Bertlain. He attended composition classes of Paul Ducas at the Ecole Normale de Musique, as well as Theory of Music, Aesthetics and Literature classes at the Sorbonne. In 1934 he returned to Bulgaria and joined the Contemporary Music Society. He played the second violin in the famous Avramov Quartet (1935-38). He was among the founding members of a chamber orchestra at Radio Sofia and his first conductor (1936-38). In 1938 he went to Munich to specialise in Conducting under Professor Karl Erenberg and Composition under Professor Josef Haas and Professor Knappe at the Academy of Music. Since 1943 for over four decades he worked as Professor at the State Academy of Music, teaching Music Instruments, Orchestration, Conducting and Composition. He was elected Rector (1954-56) and Director of the Sofia Opera (1965-67). He won the Gottfried von Herder Award of the Vienna University (1976). He joined the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and was promoted Academician (1989). He wrote four operas, two dance dramas, among which *The Fire-Dancing Woman* considered to be a masterpiece; works for choir and orchestra, for voice and orchestra; four symphonies and other works for symphony and string orchestra; eight string quartets and other chamber works for various instruments; choral and solo songs. A great part of his works has entered the permanent repertoire of the Bulgarian performers. He also wrote four music theory studies and textbooks, over 200 articles, essays, notices, etc. published in Bulgaria and abroad.



## Three miniatures for soprano and string orchestra (1965) - (UK Première)

Стар обред / Old Ritual

Изчакване / Awaiting

Щастие / Happiness

### Стар Обред

Ще легнем двамата на земята  
И нищо, и нищо няма да говорим.  
Ще слушаме как нощта свлича бялата си риза  
И зове влюбените да я наранят  
Със златните рапири,  
Рапири на прегръдките...

### Изчакване

Нека шумът на кръвта ми  
Стане светлина, светлина,  
За да можеш ти да преминаваш  
През тунелите.

### Щастие

Твоята ръка докосна, докосна моята ръка,  
Докосна моята ръка,  
И светът се преобрази в блещукане  
На истина, на истина.

### Ritual

Down on the ground we'll both lie resting  
And not a word shall anyone there utter  
And list'ning in the dark we'll hear  
How the night takes off her robe of white,  
Calling all who are in love to come  
And stab her with the golden  
Stilettoes of their embraces

### Awaiting

Let of my blood the loud gushing  
Turn into a light, shining light  
That will beam on you when you are passing  
Through the tunnels dark.

### Happiness

Now they touched my hand – your fingers  
They touched so tenderly my hand (2)  
And the world, it all changed into  
A glimmering of truth sublime. (2)



# Dobrinka Tabakova - composer

ARTISTS

Dobrinka Tabakova (b.1980) is an award-winning British/Bulgarian composer who is in demand across Europe, the US, Hong Kong and Australia. In 2013, ECM Records released her CD 'String Paths', which was named *Orchestral Choice* in the *BBC Music Magazine*, ranked among the *iTunes Best of 2013- Classical*, and nominated *Best Classical Compendium* at the 56th Grammy Awards. Dobrinka Tabakova graduated from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and received a PhD from King's College London. Among her awards are the prize for an anthem for the Queen's Golden Jubilee (performed at St. Paul's Cathedral and recorded for Hyperion); Medal at the 4th Vienna International Music Competition; GSMD Lutoslawski Composition Prize and first prize and Sorel Medallion in Choral Composition, New York. As well as working with leading musicians and orchestras, UK commissions have included those from BBC Radio 3, Cheltenham Festival, Britten Sinfonia, the Three Choirs Festival and Royal Philharmonic Society. From September 2014, Dobrinka Tabakova begins a two year residency with the Orchestra of the Swan, for whom she will be creating, among other works, a cantata for the Shakespeare anniversary in 2016. For more information please visit [www.dobrinka.com](http://www.dobrinka.com)

## **Fantasia homage to Schubert (2013) – (UK Première)**

"Schubert's Fantasy in C major for violin and piano is a notoriously challenging work, but it was its brave opening which first appealed to me. The opening tremolo shimmer in the piano out of which a heavenly violin melody is weaved always felt like an arrival, more than a beginning; the stillness and transparency communicating a kind of knowing peace which one reaches after searching for long. I wished to incorporate this melody in my homage to the composer who I have been listening to since I was a child, and whose work I have arranged and studied for years. I set to create a sound world from which this opening material would emerge. The cluster in the upper strings hovers above, until eventually the lower strings introduce the harmonies of the opening bars of the Schubert Fantasy. When expressing the sensation



of first hearing the melody to the orchestra before the premiere, I shared a vision of floating through the cosmos in a kind of weightlessness, passing stars and planets. As the Schubert melody emerges, we are glimpsing our planet Earth for the first time, fragile and perfect. Then we float off, before a final glance towards our planet."

The work was premiered by the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra and Maxim Rysanov in Vilnius in 2013. Later that year it was recorded by the Bulgarian National Radio, under Emil Tabakov, and presented at the International Rostrum of Composers 2014 in Helsinki, where it was chosen among the top three recommended works sent from national radio stations from 26 countries.

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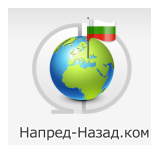
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