

Shannon Lee
violin

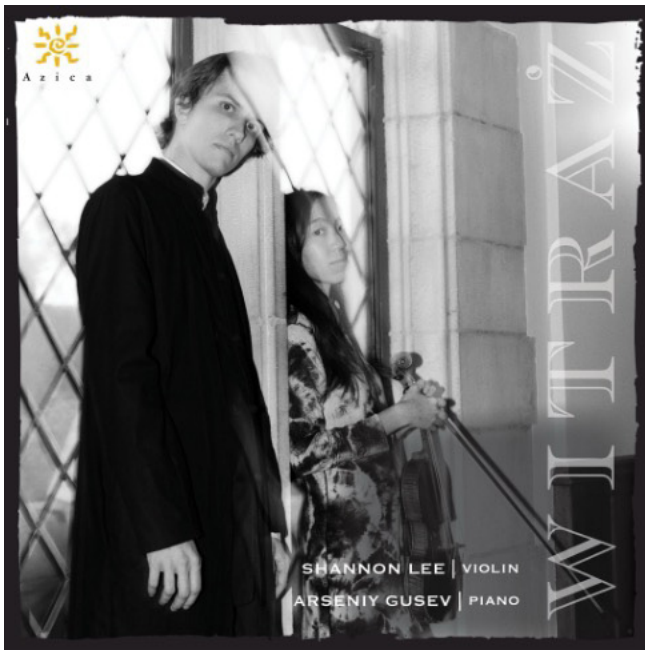
Arseniy Gusev
piano

“Witraż” Album Presentation Concert

at the Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 West 107th street, New York City

Friday, February 21, 2025, at 6 p.m.

- Two Transylvanian folk songs:** : *Violin tune from the village
Avram-Iancu in Bihor County
A juhász siratja elveszett juhait
(Shepherd mourns his lost lamb)*
- Béla Bartók** : *from Sonata No. 1, Sz. 75 for
(1881-1945) violin and piano: III. Allegro*
- Polish Lullaby:** : *“Na Wojtusia z popielnika”
(Little sparkle winked to Wojtus)*
- Grażyna Bacewicz** : *Witraż (Stained-Glass Window)
(1909-1969) and Kołysanka (Lullaby)*
- Two Czech Songs:** : *Pod tím naším okénečkem
(Under that window of ours)
Měsíček svítí (Little moon is shining)*
- Bohuslav Martinů** : *Impromptu
(1890-1959) I. Poco allegro
II. Andante moderato
III. Allegretto moderato*
- Karol Szymanowski** : *from Mythes Op. 30, I.
(1882-1937) La fontaine d'Aréthuse*
- Two Ancient Greek Melodies:** : *Pindar – First Pythian Ode
Athenaeus – First Delphic Hymn
to Apollo*
- Igor Stravinsky** : *from Duo Concertante
(1882-1971) II. Eglogue I
III. Eglogue II
V. Dithyrambe*



WITRAŻ

STATEMENT ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In 1642, Oliver Cromwell's soldiers destroyed the stained-glass windows of the medieval Winchester Cathedral in southern England. Shattered images on the glass, destroyed with vehemence and ignorance, were nearly impossible to restore. However, together, the townspeople found a solution – picking up the little pieces and arranging them in a different order, preserving a sorrowful reminder of forever-vanished beauty.

When we were selecting the pieces for this album, *Witraż* (Stained-Glass Window, from Polish), we were driven by the idea to reflect that very complicated psychological and aesthetical tension that was formed in Eastern Europe between the two world wars. Older values, beliefs, and ways of life were smashed and shattered, just like

the windows of the Winchester Cathedral, and composers of that time were left with the task of collecting those shards and reconstructing a forever-changed musical reality.

Now, when the Russian invasion of Ukraine has broken the fates of millions of people in Europe, it seems especially important to us to bring together musical images created by Eastern European composers during the Interbellum period. Centered around Bartók's First Sonata for violin and piano and Stravinsky's Duo Concertante, this album also includes shorter works by Szymanowski, Lyatoshynsky (transcribed by Arseniy), Marinů, and Baciewicz. From ancient Greek influences to impressionist techniques and neoclassicism, there are many imaginative threads and memories to follow, and perhaps the architecture of this album can provoke thoughts and impressions similar to those one might experience upon observing the poignant mosaics of the Winchester Cathedral.

Stained Glass Window Photos by Michael Strong

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Violinist SHANNON LEE has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Tokyo Symphony, Belgian National Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, and New York String Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, and has won prizes in several international events including the Sendai, Queen Elisabeth, Naumburg, and Indianapolis competitions. She has also released solo and duo albums with Telarc, Fontec, and Etymology Records. Currently based in Amsterdam, Shannon was born in Canada and began playing violin at age four in Plano, Texas. Her teachers and major influences have included Jan Mark Sloman, David Nadien, Jaime Laredo, Ida Kavafian, Arnold Steinhardt, and Vera Beths. In between studies at the Curtis Institute, Cleveland Institute, and Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Shannon welcomed opportunities to explore baroque violin and composition, and prior to that she completed her Bachelor's degree in computer science from Columbia University. As a chamber musician, Shannon has played at Creative Dialogue France, Krzyżowa-Music in Poland, Music@Menlo in California, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and Heifetz International Music Institute, where she was Artist-in-Residence and teaching assistant to Jan Sloman. In addition to teaching privately, Shannon is the founder and director of Chamber Music Perspectives Workshop, a unique summer program which invites young string players in the Dallas-Fort-Worth area to engage in both chamber music and music composition.

Pianist and composer ARSENIY GUSEV was born in St. Petersburg in 1998 and has been studying music since the age of five. He is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, Yale master's program alumnus, and current master's student at the Juilliard School. Sergei Babayan, Keith Fitch, Chris Theofanidis, and David Lang are among his teachers. Arseniy is a laureate of many prestigious competitions, such as the Cleveland Piano Virtu(al)oso Competition, Singapore International Piano Competition, Cleveland Composers Guild Contest, "Another Space" Composition Competition, and International Gavrilin Competition. He actively performs in the US and abroad, and has given solo concerts in Austria, Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Russia, and Germany. Gusev's compositions present a colorful variety of styles and genres, some of which are solo, collaborative, symphonic, ballet, and opera. Arseniy has two solo piano albums: *Enfleurage* (Etymology Classics, 2023), and *Musical Offering* (Steinway & Sons, 2024).