



CONTEMPORARIES OF THE STRAUSS FAMILY • 2

Ivanovici • Lincke • Zeller • Fučík • Komzák • Suppé
Rosas • Hellmesberger • Labitzky • Fetrás • Schrammel

Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice
John Georgiadis



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Much of the music of the Strauss family has been recorded and is well known, but there were many other talented composers who produced a large amount of popular music in a similar vein in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This second album provides an orchestral compilation taken from a small fraction of what was the popular music of the day. Extensive research by The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain went into this selection, and John Georgiadis, the conductor of this series, has reconstructed some works from original archive material, and in a few cases made entirely new orchestrations. The inspiration has been a desire to remind us of some of the forgotten, yet glorious melodies that were created by many of the central European light music composers, whose music provided an escape for the population from the daily hardships of life. This unique compilation also celebrates the Fiftieth Anniversary of The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain, which has done much to keep alive the popular music of this era.

Iosef Ivanovici (1845-1902)

No apology is needed to include more of Ivanovici, as his music has been neglected for far too long. Having had a military career he was an expert creator of marches, and *Erzherzog Carl Ludwig* ^[1] is a typical example. The galop was another of his favourite dance forms, and John Georgiadis has orchestrated *Flink in der Wind* ^[5] from the original piano score. The last example is a charming polka mazurka, *L'Odalisque* ^[11] recreated from the original handwritten manuscript.

Paul Lincke (1866-1946)

Paul Lincke derived many of his dance pieces from his operettas and revues, and when his melodies are heard they are often recognised, but without any idea of where they came from. The waltz *Im Walzerrausch* ^[2] (Whirl of

the Waltz) from *Halloh! Die große Revue* is a good example. Another hitherto unrecorded overture to the 1904 operetta *Berliner Luft* ^[16] concludes the recording. It contains the famous march of the same name, which always features in the Berlin New Year Concert.

Carl Zeller (1842-1898)

Zeller was a Viennese civil servant who became famous for two operettas, which are still favourites on the stage, *Der Vogelhändler* and *Der Obersteiger*, and also some songs from a posthumous third, *Der Kellermeister*, still sung from time to time. He is represented here by the polka mazurka *Schön Frau* ^[3] from *Der Obersteiger*, which includes several characteristic melodies.

Julius Fučík (1872-1916)

The most famous Czech composer of popular light music, Julius Fučík stands quite apart from most other bandmasters in his originality and style, and is without question one of the great figures of Central European light music. Many of his marches and waltzes are still played, particularly by wind bands, but he was equally at home composing for both wind and string orchestra. Two items are included, one, the well known march *Die Regimentskinder* ^[4], hitherto only recorded by military band, and for Fučík fans a real discovery, the unknown humorous march *Um Mitternacht* ^[13]. Note how the trombones reflect cats at midnight.

Oscar Fetrás (1854-1931)

Fetrás was perhaps known best for his waltzes, although he wrote over 200 works, mostly dance pieces. He composed the potpourri to Johann Strauss's operetta *Die Göttin der Vernunft* (*On Stage with Johann Strauss Vol. 2* [Marco Polo 8.225075]). The descriptive waltz *Blauer Augen, Blaue Himmel* ^[14] receives its première on this disc.

Karl Komzák II (1850-1905)

Already the subject of two recordings on the Marco Polo label [8.225174 and 8.225327], Karl Komzák Jr. was the best known of the three generations of Komzák's, all of whom carried the same name. This confusion has also affected the cataloguing of Komzák works as in some cases it is not possible to identify which generation wrote which piece. Included here are a polka française *Blond Poste Restante* ^[6] which is often played in his home town of Baden bei Wien, and a charming gavotte *Die Lautenschlägerin* ^[9].

Franz von Suppé (1819-1895)

Suppé is well known for his many overtures, and many of his works have been recorded for Marco Polo in six volumes [8.223863-65, 8.223647-48, 8.223683, 8.223730]. As one of the operetta giants of the second half of the nineteenth century he must be included, and his *Niccolo* ^[7] march is taken from his posthumous operetta *Das Model*, which gathered together many of Suppé's unused melodies.

Juventino Rosas (1868-1894)

A contemporary of Johann Strauss II, but without any known connection, the talented Mexican composer Juventino Rosas is now properly recognised in his home country. Like Ivanovici, he wrote one world famous waltz, *Over the Waves*, again commonly mistaken as a waltz by Johann Strauss. Most of his other works have been sadly neglected. He died tragically at only 26, so cutting short what might have been an enormously successful career. The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain recorded his *Carmen* waltz a few years ago in its "Spirit of Vienna" series, and *Ensueño Seductor* ^[8] is the third Rosas waltz to be recorded with a full orchestra, in a new arrangement, by John Georgiadis.

Josef Hellmesberger Jr. (1855-1907)

Fidele Brüder ^[10] is the march from his most successful, but now sadly forgotten hit operetta *Das Veilchenmädel*, which contains many of Hellmesberger's most brilliant melodies. Both the waltz and the overture have been recorded, but not the march. It is certainly one operetta that deserves revival. The only recording of works exclusively by Hellmesberger was issued on the Marco Polo label [8.225021] in 1996. The composer is not to be confused with Richard Heuberger, a contemporary, who wrote the operetta *Der Opernball* and whose overture to another operetta *Ihre Excellence* is available as a Naxos download [9.70228].

Joseph Labitzky (1802-1881)

Father and son August Labitzky were prominent Czech musicians who were resident in Kalovy Vary, the father becoming known as the Bohemian Waltz King. He was also of the first generation of composers and toured extensively with his orchestra throughout Europe, including England, with compositions dedicated to towns and personalities. His music is still played in the same spa resort today, but is rarely heard elsewhere. His *Immergrün* ^[12] galop must have been well known at the time as it was included in a medley that was played for years in the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. Another of his compositions, the *Albert Waltz* is available as a Naxos download [9.70228].

Johann Schrammel (1850-1893)

A second Schrammel march which had been fully orchestrated, was located in an old archive. No other recording of this hitherto unperformed march *S'gibt nur a Weaner Luft* ^[15] march has been found, so this recording is another world première.

Acknowledgements

This production would not have been possible without the dedicated support of a number of people and institutions, above all John Georgiadis, who arranged and restored much of the music. The archivist Franz Neuwirth of the Wiener International Operetten Gesellschaft helped locate much of the original material, the soprano and musician Pauline Pfeffer of Operetten-Salon in Vienna assisted in the initial research, also the conductor Bohumír Hájek, and researcher Thomas Jelinowicz of The Czech Johann Strauss Society (Fučík and Labitzky), Friedhelm Kuhlman of the German Johann Strauss Society (Oscar Fetrás), and Apollo-Verlag, who were kind enough to assist in the provision of compositions by Paul Lincke.

John Diamond

Chairman, The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain

Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice



Founded in 1969, the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice is one of the Czech Republic's top orchestras. The repertoire of this chamber orchestra has ranged from baroque to contemporary music. It is valued for its stylistic interpretations and the quality of its orchestral sound, and is ranked amongst the world's leading representatives of Czech musical culture. It often performs at the Czech Republic's most important festivals and at many major venues in Europe, Japan and America. Apart from concerts the orchestra regularly engages in operatic and theatre projects and has dozens of successful discs to its credit on many labels, including Naxos. Jiří Štílec, the producer of this recording, is a Czech musicologist and producer who has worked for Supraphon and Czech Radio, and owns the recording label ArcoDiva. He is a founder of the Gustav Mahler Society in the Czech Republic. He is the Head of Music Management Department at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, and is also a well known writer.

John Georgiadis



John Georgiadis started playing the violin at the age of six, which led to a career as a professional violinist culminating in his being appointed leader, first with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and then the London Symphony Orchestra at the age of 26. He held the latter position for fourteen years. He was a founder member of the London Virtuosi Chamber Ensemble and Orchestra and also played as first violin in the celebrated Gabrieli String Quartet. His interest in conducting began in the mid-1970s, and he studied orchestration for eight years under the legendary conductor and teacher Sergiu Celibidache. Known for the variety of his programmes, he has conducted concerts with most of the major British orchestras. On 31st December 2014 in the Barbican, he celebrated his 39th consecutive year as organiser and conductor of Viennese-style New Year's concerts in London. Throughout his conducting career he has made a speciality of Viennese music and has recorded Strauss family music in particular with top British orchestras, and also worldwide, including for Naxos. He is a longstanding honorary member of The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain. www.johngeorgiadis.com

This programme looks beyond the works of the renowned Strauss family. Research by The Johann Strauss Society of Great Britain has uncovered many rare pieces by central European light music composers of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Julius Fučík's humorous march *Um Mitternacht* includes an imitation of nocturnal cats by the trombones, and Paul Lincke's *Overture* to his operetta *Berliner Luft* includes the famous march that is a traditional part of the Berlin New Year Concert. Volume 1 of this series can be found on Marco Polo 8.225365. Three more pieces from this series by Lincke, Labitzky and Heuberger can be heard as a Naxos download on 9.70228.

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| 1 Iosef Ivanovici (1845-1902): Erzherzog Carl Ludwig March, Op. 129* 3:05 | 9 Komzák: Die Lautenschlägerin Gavotte, Op. 119 3:17 |
| 2 Paul Lincke (1866-1946): Im Walzerrausch Waltz (from <i>Halloh! Die große Revue</i>) 8:42 | 10 Josef Hellmesberger Jr. (1855-1907): Fidele Bruder March (from <i>Das Veilchenmädel</i>) 2:45 |
| 3 Carl Zeller (1842-1898): Schön Frau Polka Mazurka (from <i>Der Obersteiger</i>) 4:06 | 11 Ivanovici: L'Odalisque Polka Mazurka* 4:29 |
| 4 Julius Fučík (1872-1916): Die Regimentskinder March, Op. 169* 4:12 | 12 Joseph Labitzky (1802-1881): Immergrün Galopp, Op. 65* 3:12 |
| 5 Ivanovici: Flink wie der Wind Galopp* 2:37 | 13 Fučík: Um Mitternacht March, Op. 93* 4:28 |
| 6 Karl Komzák II (1850-1905): Blonde Poste Restante Polka Française 5:20 | 14 Oscar Fetrás (1854-1931): Blauer Augen, blauer Himmel Waltz, Op. 75 8:59 |
| 7 Franz von Suppé (1819-1895): Niccolo March (from <i>Das Model</i>) 2:27 | 15 Johann Schrammel (1850-1893): S'gibt nur a Weaner Luft March 2:35 |
| 8 Juventino Rosas (1868-1894): Ensueño Seductor (Liebestraum) Waltz* 8:33 | 16 Lincke: Berliner Luft – Overture 7:04 |

*arr. John Georgiadis

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice

John Georgiadis



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