

JAZZFESTBRNO

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PACORA (SK/MOL)

 YouTube

Stano Palúch – violin, Robert Ragan – bass, Marcel Comendant – cimbalom



Cimbalom? Sure. But in jazz? Hardly! Believe it or not, jazz has its white crows and black sheep, the category of instruments aptly called „Miscellaneous“ by the American magazine DownBeat. This all-encompassing category includes some of the most exotic and least conceivable instruments and their virtuosos. Music critics and readers choose their favorites among these players once a year and there is no doubt that sooner or later the dulcimer will get into this category and rank alongside banjo, bagpipes, shells or harmonica. A virtuoso strings and drumsticks player Marcel Comendant is doing everything to adopt the dulcimer to the family of jazz instruments as soon as possible. He plays genuine bebop and swings hard!

However, the repertoire of the Pacora trio, whose title comes from initial syllables of surnames of its members, is certainly not limited to bebop. Today it stands firmly on the trio members' feet and it represents a completely original musical shape with thorough protection against illegal copying. The remaining trio members are as similarly unique personalities as Comendant: violinist Stano Palúch is at home in jazz, classical, folk and bluegrass, bassist Robo Ragan is a seasoned classical orchestra player and an in demand jazz sideman.

Pacora has been touring and recording since 2004. The inimitable sound of the trio is created by organic blending of jazz and folk tinged with elements of classical music. The repertoire is dominated by the original compositions of the members and intriguing arrangements of jazz standards. In 2005, Pacora recorded their debut CD for the Hevhetia record label and received great reviews in the prestigious English music magazine „BBC Music“ shortly afterwards. In 2007, the trio was invited for a concert presentation of their compositions in large orchestra arrangements by the director of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra. This collaboration was followed by concerts with the Zlín Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic, ŠKO Žilina and Bratislava Chamber Soloists. Pacora has recorded for Czech and Slovak television and radio, Austrian ORF and several movies. The second CD was released in 2009 and their most recent gem is the reeling recording Fugit Hora (time is running) from 2013. Pacora trio is a genuine musical export item and it is also considered as such by music lovers and connoisseurs from around the world. Their review on the BBC with the result of 4-stars is a phenomenon likened to the frequency of Halley's comet returning to planet Earth in our latitudes. To be sure PaCoRa's home is in Brno, but their virtuosity and positive energy go far beyond any city limits. Three instruments, three virtuosos and so much music!

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