

## Vladyslav Sendecky & Atom String Quartet

\* Le Jardin Oublié / My Polish Heart \*

release: 16th November 2018

Neuklang/In-Akustik

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## Vladyslav Sendecky & Atom String Quartet

\* Le Jardin Oublié / My Polish Heart \*

**Vladyslav Sendecky** \* piano

Atom String Quartet:

**Dawid Lubowicz** \* violin

**Mateusz Smoczyński** \* violin

**Michał Zaborski** \* viola

**Krzysztof Lenczowski** \* cello

NCD4198 \* Neuklang/In-Akustik

**Vladyslav Sendecky** is one of the most powerful and extremely creative solo pianists of our time.

„(...) He is a long lost descendant of Schumann, Debussy and Grieg, contemporary master of small forms, who pulled jazz to the rank of „the second classical music“ in music history. (...) a champion of emotion creating poignant musical virtuosity with harmonies and changing rhythms. (...)“ the Süddeutsche Zeitung writes about the pianist and composer.

*“Music has always meant freedom to me. Freedom and the exchange of thoughts and emotions – with the audience, other musicians, and between the instrument and myself.”*

These are the words of **Vladyslav Sendecky**, a man whose background is an inseparable part of his art. Born in Gorlice in 1955, he developed into a celebrated classical pianist at a very young age.

He first heard Weather Report and Mahavishnu at the age of fifteen, groups whose recordings – though officially frowned upon in Poland at the time – were circulating on the black market. For Sendecky, this first contact with jazz became a decisive and crucial experience that would define the rest of his life.

With his two jazz groups Extra Ball and Sunship, the celebrated pianist and composer was invited to perform at major festivals across Europe; a difficult undertaking in the days of the Iron Curtain... In 1981, Sendecky yielded to his musical passion and immigrated, first to Switzerland and then to Germany. It was not only a brave step into freedom, but also an entrance into the jazz big time. Since then he has played alongside jazz greats like Joe Henderson, Lenny White, Marcus Miller, Randy and Michael Brecker, Jaco Pastorius, Billy Cobham, Till Brönner and Klaus Doldinger, to name but a few. He has also been a permanent ensemble member of the renowned NDR Big Band since 1996.

But despite his international success, and his attachment to his chosen homeland of Germany, Vladyslav Sendecky can't and won't deny his roots – namely his love for Poland, and his love of classical music. He breaks through the artificial barriers between classical music and jazz like no other contemporary pianist and composer! His passion, to live and experience music as a globally unifying social and cultural asset that transcends all borders, is something that he actively pursues, even in his role as the artistic director of the star Jazz Festival (Hamburg, 12 -13 October 2018).

The **Atom String Quartet** is arguably one of the most fascinating string quartets in the world, and at the same time, it is one of Poland's best jazz bands.

Using the instruments of a chamber music ensemble (Dawid Lubowicz and Mateusz Smoczyński: violins, Michał Zaborski: viola, Krzysztof Lenczowski: cello), and with a firm anchoring in the classical music tradition, the Atom String Quartet breaks new ground in terms of sounds and structure. Their music is much more than a bridge between jazz and classical music. Polish folk music, world-music ideas from many other cultures, as well as compositions from contemporary music, are also sources of inspiration for their unmistakable new string sound.

The four graduates of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, each of whom was already highly distinguished in other ensembles, launched their Atom String Quartet in 2010. Since then, they have caused a sensation at the world's largest music festivals, won international awards, and performed on stage with greats like Branford Marsalis, Bobby McFerrin, Gil Goldstein, Vladyslav "Adzik" Sendcki, Mino Cinelu, Paolo Fresu, Leszek Możdżer, Lars Danielsson, Zohar Fresco, and Jerzy Maksymiuk, to name but a few.

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### Le Jardin Oublié / My Polish Heart

*"With these recordings, I would like to share a true labour of love with you. All of my compositions on this album have been shaped by either very personal experiences and occurrences, or very personal stimuli from my immediate*

*environment. The instrumentation – piano and string quartet – is tonally one of my absolute favourites, and the manner of interpretation, with each of the pieces an exciting and organic blend of composition and improvisation, is my musical credo.*

*We would like you to feel that mutual inspiration which my esteemed fellow musicians from the Atom String Quartet and I were able to experience, both during the recordings at Bauer Studios, and on stage at the Studio Konzert. New spaces have revealed themselves through our musical encounter – spaces full of energetic concentration, sonic complexity and lyrical expression. Spaces full of freedom.*

*And despite, or maybe because of this complexity, it's still just music. Music for pleasure, for the love of life – for all of us."* These are Vladyslav Sendeki's own words about the album.

The pieces 1 – 4 and 6 – 10 encompass the album's title *Le Jardin Oublié*. It's a metaphor for the forgotten, that which is believed to be lost, and the longed for – an inner view that gazes both into the past and the future – even touching fragmentarily on the basic existentialist concepts of being and nonexistence.

### Tracklist:

01 \* **Picture Of The Past** / 06:17 \* Déjà vu as a stimulus for thoughts and dreams

02 \* **Lullaby For A Handful Kids** / Kolysanka dla niesfornych dzieci / 05:26 \* Based on one of the three berceuses by Polish composer Karol Szymanowski

03 \* **Payed View On Tatra** / 06:19 \* Composed by Vladyslav's brother Stefan Sendeki – a very humorous musical look at traditional Polish music, with some deliberately knowing winks and references (throw a euro in the coin-operated binoculars and enjoy a three minute view of the Tatra Mountains...)

04 \* **A Little Waltz Wunderlich** / Walczyk Wunderlich / 04:45 \* Dedicated to Werner Wunderlich, a great German jazz journalist and radio presenter, who was deeply attached to the country of Poland.

05 \* **My Polish Heart** / 19:47 \* A composition by Prof. Wolf Kerschek for Vladyslav Sendeki based upon long and intensive conversations between the two, during which a deep mutual understanding emerged on a metaphysical level, and which became both the inspiration and basis of the music. *My Polish Heart* stands for spiritual richness, for love, for creativity, and the yearning for freedom. Though this applies as a guiding principle for everyone worldwide, the composition here is meant to be seen in an historical, geographic and sociological context. It is also intended for a nation whose experiences count among the most tragic in global history – and yet whose cultural treasures and values have survived.

06 \* **Back Where I Belong** / 03:31 \* A composition from 1982, when Poland was under martial law – a fond memory of the lost homeland

07 \* **Kommeda Hommage** / 11:13 \* Two pieces by the jazz and film music composer Krzysztof Komeda (*After Catastrophe* and *Ballet Etude No. 3*) in a version with plenty of room for improvisational freedom

08 \* **A Man Of A Big Heart** / 01:59 \* A musical dedication to a friend who gives his heart entirely to his friends, his values, and all the beautiful things in life: art, music and culture. Thank you!

09 \* **Tanciec Magurski** / 05:14 \* Another composition by Stefan Sendeki in the characteristic style of Polish folklore. Magura is a hill, 800m high, near the town of Gorlice, birthplace of the Sendeki brothers, and one of their many walking destinations.

10 \* **Elegy** / 03:00 \* "In recent years, many artists from my generation have left to join the big *orchestra in heaven*. But it isn't only sorrow which is expressed in this piece, it's also about hoping for the continuance and infiniteness of memories and feelings" said Vladyslav Sendeki.

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