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“This music has always been part of my life. It reminds me of my mother and of family gatherings when my grandmother and my aunts would beg my father and I to play the Yiddish tunes they grew up with. We had no sheet music for these pieces so they would hum the melody and we would improvise on guitar and violin. I wanted to share these moments of joy and reciprocity with the audience, moments where rhythms amidst the music and dancing forged bonds of love between us.”

Richard Schmoucler, artistic director (translated from the original French)

**THE TZIGANE SPIRIT AND
YIDDISH SOUL**

Yiddish and tzigane communities have produced lively and highly sophisticated music which captured the imagination of composers such as Bloch, Ravel and even Bartók. Over centuries, these folk tunes with their Slavic, Balkan and Eastern flavour have percolated throughout Europe setting the tone and tempo of people’s lives through births, marriages, festivities and tragedies. A Yiddishe Mame is built on classic melodies with vibrant phrasing which dance and sing and reinvent themselves through the ages and across borders by way of journeys and stories retold.

The vigour, intensity and originality of the Sirba Octet’s arrangements bring to life these familiar Eastern European tunes – a body of music characterized by the wanderings of a whole population, in which sentiment and creative flair are bound together.

**FROM ORAL TRADITION TO
NOTES ON A STAVE**

The show’s simple staging and acoustic setup allows each of the eight instruments to shine. Strings, clarinet, piano and cymbalum harness the rich tones and subtle variations, effortlessly marrying folk with classical chamber music.

This distinguished ensemble, made up of six members of the Orchestre de Paris, an internationally acclaimed pianist and a cimbalom player from one of the greatest music schools in Moldova, possesses an incredible on-stage energy driven by the spirit of the music. In combination with the celebratory tone of this show, the enthusiasm, perception and prowess of these musicians becomes electrifying.

With their idiosyncratic fusion of musical styles, Cyrille Lehn and Yann Ollivo’s arrangements for the Sirba Octet are entirely unique within their genre. A defining show for the ensemble, A Yiddishe Mame has been performed at festivals, theatres and other cultural venues since its debut.

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PROGRAM

Tire l'aiguille, Emil Stern /
Klezdrix / Sirba, arrangements
Yann Ollivo

Les Deux guitares, Traditional
repertory

Ukrainian Memories,
Traditional repertory,
arrangements Yann Ollivo

A Yiddishe Mame, Liew Pollack
and Ian Ivanovici,
arrangements Yann Ollivo

**Tanz : Hassidic Dance /
Sunrise, Sunset/ Publitchki**
Jerry Bloch, Traditional
repertory, arrangements Cyrille
Lehn

Bessarabye, Traditional
repertory, arrangements Cyrille
Lehn

Nigun, Ernest Bloch

Poliouchka, Russian Traditional
Repertory, arrangements Yann
Ollivo

Doina, Ca la breaza, Traditional
repertory, arrangements Cyrille
Lehn

**Medley : Papirosn de Herman
Yablokoff/ Tumbalalaika**,
traditionnal yiddish

Ah si j'étais riche, de Jerry Bock

Roumania, Roumania, Aaron
Lebedef, arrangements
Yann Ollivo

Medley : Oyfm Pripetshik, Mark
Warshawski

Hora Martisorului, Gypsy
Traditional repertory,
arrangements Cyrille Lehn

THE MUSICIANS

The Sirba Octet

Richard Schmoucler violin 1

Christian Brière violin 2

David Gaillard viola

Claude Giron cello

Bernard Cazauran bass

Philippe Berrod clarinet

Iurie Morar cymbalum

Christophe Henry piano

Arrangements : Yann Ollivo and
Cyrille Lehn

Duration : 1h30 (Without
intermission)

A Y I D D I S H E M A M E

When violinist Richard Schmucler founded the Sirba Octet in 2003, he created an entirely new sound. With arrangers Cyrille Lehn and Yann Ollivo, five fellow musicians from the Orchestre de Paris, a pianist and a cimbalom player, he formed a unique ensemble with a fresh perspective on klezmer, Yiddish and gypsy music.

In collaboration with the Orchestre de Paris, the Sirba Octet performed *Un violon sur les toits de Paris*, (*A fiddler on the rooves of Paris*), at the Théâtre Mogador, a concert which they developed into their first acoustic album, *A Yiddish Mame*, released in 2005 under the label Ambrosie (Naïve). With Slavic and Yiddish nuances, this anthology of Eastern European melodies is drawn from Schmucler's own memories of happy family gatherings.

SIGNIFICANT ARTISTIC PARTNERSHIPS

In 2007, as part of the Festival d'Île-de-France, the Sirba Octet worked with Isabelle Georges, the multi-talented singer, dancer and actress known as a 'triple threat', to produce *Du Shtetl à New York*. An array of music from the shtetl and standards from the golden age of American musical theatre, via jazz, ragtime and lullabies composed by second generation immigrants, the show charts the journey made by millions of Eastern Europeans from their shtetls, or villages, to New York, melting pot of musical influences from all over the world. The show was inspired by Fabienne Rousso-Lenoir's documentary *Du Shtetl à Broadway* and celebrates heredity and inheritance, an important foundation of the Yiddish community.

The Sirba Octet continued to work with Isabelle Georges on *Yiddish Rhapsody*, a show based on traditional Yiddish music but accented with elements of jazz, salsa, musicals, rock and samba. Commissioned by the Orchestre de Pau Pays de Béarn, conducted by Fayçal Karoui, *Yiddish Rhapsody* was unique in its staging of the octet alongside a 50-piece orchestra and was therefore able to perform orchestral as well as chamber music. The show became their third album with Naïve, and was performed with the Orchestre Lamoureux at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Orchestre de Trier in Germany, the Liège Royal Philharmonic, the Tonkustler Orchester at Festspielhaus and at Musikverein in Vienna.

Their albums have received critical acclaim in the press, winning notably a '10 de Répertoire-Classica' for *Du Shtetl à New York*, the European Association for Jewish Culture prize and a Choc de Classica for *Tantz!* The group was also the subject of a documentary by Alain Duault for France 3 entitled *A day with the Sirba Octet and Isabelle Georges*. In 2011 the Sirba Octet and Isabelle Georges were selected by the Victoires de la Musique Classique to appear alongside the Orchestre des Pays de la Loire conducted by John Axelrod.

Appearing regularly at leading festivals in France and abroad, the Sirba Octet have performed at many prestigious venues including the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and Musikverein in Vienna with longer runs at Théâtre Mogador, l'Européen, La Cigale et à l'Espace Pierre Cardin à Paris. In 2012, they took part in the Festival Radio Classique at the Olympia with Isabelle Georges and, in 2013, they appeared at Musiques en fête aux Chorégies d'Orange which was broadcast live on France 3.

A Y I D D I S H E M A M E

Thanks to their talented arranger Cyrille Lehn, the Sirba Octet are constantly enriching their repertoire, adding pieces that range from the most famous to the lesser known. Lehn worked with the group on a project for which they were joined for the first time by Catherine Lara. This new adventure led to the album *Au cœur de l'âme Yiddish (The Spirit of the Yiddish)*, released on Sony in November 2012. Captivated by their world, Catherine Lara chose eight of her most acclaimed pieces to record with the Sirba Octet. In April 2013, they performed the album live for two concerts at l'Alhambra in Paris.

Sirba Octet's orchestral show was one of the highlights of their 2015 season. For Sirba Orchestra! they once again worked with the Orchestre de Pau Pays de Béarn conducted by Fayçal Karoui with a guest appearance from Nicolas Kedroff, the talented balalaika player. The show comprised a series of performances at the Palais Beaumont in Pau in June 2015 that were broadcast live on Radio Classique. Focussing on Yiddish and Slavic music, the show is a window on the lively and moving musical traditions of Eastern Europe. The group will take the show to the Orchestre de Bretagne and the Orchestre Royal Philharmonique de Liège in 2017.

LATEST RELEASE – TANTZ !

In October 2015, the Sirba Octet released their fifth album *Tantz!* on La Dolce Volta record label. In November 2015, following the album release, the group gave five concerts at l'Espace Pierre Cardin. *Tantz!* is a journey into music you can dance to, led by the masterly musicians of the Sirba Octet and their exceptional rendition. This remarkable ensemble, midway between classical and klezmer music, has revived the traditional music of Eastern Europe, creating new arrangements based on the principals of more scholarly music.

This musical masterpiece lets you wander through doina, hora, sirba and other klezmer and gypsy style dances. Linking Romania, Moldova, Russia and Hungary, *Tantz!* makes an expressive journey, flitting across borders and expanding horizons. The great, iconic violinist Ivry Gitlis wrote a foreword for the album and endorses the project.

CLASSICAL WORLD MUSIC

The vigour, intensity and originality of the Sirba Octet's arrangements bring to life the familiar tunes of Eastern Europe – a body of music characterized by the wanderings of a whole population, in which sentiment and creative flair are bound together. Unparalleled outside of the conventional circuit, the group skilfully unite genres and combine both orchestral and chamber music. Sirba Octet's unique vision puts them in their own league as they pioneer a new genre – Classical World.

THE MUSICIAN SIRBA OCTET S

RICHARD SCHMOUCLER Violin & artistic director



Member of the Orchestre de Paris since 1998, Richard Schmucler trained at the Conservatoire de Paris under Gérard Poulet, Maurice Moulin, Devy Erlih and Alexis Galpérine for violin and Bruno Pasquier and David Walter for chamber music. In 1990 he was awarded first prize diplomas both in violin and chamber music. He continued to study under Ivry Gitlis and also with Maya Glézarova at the Moscow Conservatory, Tibor Varga and Myriam Solovief. Schmucler has been awarded prizes by the Fondation Bleustein-Blanchet and the Fondation de France and is a regular soloist for the Auvergne and Toulouse Chamber Orchestras, the Pasedoupe Orchestra and the Orchestre Lamoureux. From 2010 to 2014 he was first violin for the ensemble Musique Oblique. In 2003, Schmucler formed the Sirba Octet and has been the driving force behind the group's progression and the production of their five albums. He has given various masterclasses and performances, notably at the Académie Festival des Arcs, PESM de Bourgogne and the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz in Poland. At his request, Kaija Saariaho composed *Frises* for violin and electronics and November 2012 saw the world premiere of the piece, which was dedicated to Schmucler, at the Borusan Art Centre in Istanbul. In 2011 he became the director of studies at the Orchestre Atelier Ostinato. In 2016 he began teaching competition preparation at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional in Paris.

CHRISTIAN BRIERE Violin



Christian Brière was awarded a Premier Prix in violin and chamber music at the CNSM in Paris. He then went on to study the Romantic repertory with Christian Ferras and Gérard Jarry, and worked with Jean Hubeau on neglected works by French composers. He joined the Orchestre de Paris in 1983 and was soon promoted to a first-desk position. He has appeared in concert as guest leader with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Erwartung, the Orchestre de Chambre Jean-François Paillard, and the Orchestre Française de Musique Légère, with which he participated in 1992 in a production of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* directed and performed by the actor Jean Rochefort. With Simon Schembri he forms a violin-guitar duo that explores the repertory for that combination, from Jacques Ibert to Astor Piazzolla. He was formerly leader of the Orchestre Lamoureux, and also appears with the tango ensemble Carrasco 'H' Quartet.

DAVID GAILLARD Viola



The son of a rock guitarist and a storyteller, David Gaillard came to music through oral transmission and improvisation. He was named top musician of his year in Jean Sulem's viola class at the CNSM in Paris, winning the Premier Prix by unanimous decision with the congratulations of the jury, as well as the Premier Prix in harmony by unanimous decision and Second Prix in counterpoint, then entered the postgraduate course where he was taught by Hatto Beyerle, Veronika Hagen, and Bruno Pasquier. He was appointed professor at the CNSM de Paris in 2009. He is principal viola of the Orchestre de Paris, and also appears in chamber music with such artists as Christoph Eschenbach, Menahem Pressler, Olivier Charlier, and Marc Coppey, and is a member of the Les Dissonances quartet with David Grimal, Hans-Peter Hofmann, and Xavier Phillips. He still retains a keen interest in improvisation that has led him to join the quartet of Jean-Philippe Viret, which has appeared at the Paris Jazz Festival, among other venues.

CLAUDE GIRON Cello



After receiving Premiers Prix from the CNSM of Paris in cello and chamber music in the classes of Roland Pidoux and Michel Strauss respectively, Claude Giron set out at the age of twenty-one for further study with Aldo Parisot at Yale University, where she was awarded a Master of Music and an Artist Diploma. In 1994 she joined the Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, moving to the Orchestre de Paris in 1998. Claude Giron also plays in quartet and chamber orchestra repertory (with the European Camerata and the Octuor de Paris among others), and has recorded a CD with the jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal. She frequently toured Europe and the United States between 2000 and 2007 as a member of the American group Pink Martini.

T H E M U S I C I A N S

BERNARD CAZAURAN Bass



Bernard Cazauran has been a member of the Orchestre de Paris since it was formed in 1967, and was principal double bass from 1979 to 2012. He was a prize winner at the Geneva Competition. He has often appeared in chamber music, notably with Daniel Barenboim, but also in the field of jazz with Basse Fusion and tango with the Carrasco 'H' Quartet. He taught for 15 years at the CNSM in Lyon.

PHILIPPE BERROD Clarinet



First clarinet for the Orchestre de Paris since 1995, Philippe Berrod also plays regularly with other ensembles as a guest soloist. His repertoire ranges from Mozart's clarinet concerto to Dialogue de l'ombre double by P.Boulez. He was awarded a first prize diploma from the Conservatoire de Paris where he was tutored by Guy Deplus. He has also won a number of international competitions. He became a clarinet tutor at the Conservatoire de Paris in 2011. Berrod has released a number of recordings including Les Vents français on Sony Classical – Indésens and the album Art of Clarinet as well as two complete collections of chamber music for woodwind by Saint-Saëns and Poulenc respectively. These were well received in the press and nominated for Victoires de la Musique awards in 2011. Since 2010, Berrod has been artistic advisor for the French woodwind instrument manufacturer Henri Selmer-Paris.

CHRISTOPHE HENRY Piano



After training at the Conservatoire de Paris with a series of first prize diplomas under Alain Planès for piano, Michel Chapuis for organ, Bruno Pasquier for chamber music and Jean Koerner for accompaniment, Christophe Henry honed his skills alongside Menahem Pressler at the Banff Arts Festival in Canada. As both a pianist and organist he has performed with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France, Orchestre National de France, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre de Lyon and the Radio-France Choir at some of the greatest concert halls in Beijing, Tokyo, Seoul, Paris and Vienna and at the Roman Theatre of Orange. In 2009, he was recorded playing Charles-Valentin Alkan's pedal piano, a one-of-a-kind instrument displayed at the Musée de la Musique in Paris. In 2011 he played with the Quatuor Ludwig and in 2012 he appeared as a soloist with the chamber choir Accentus at the Mozarteum as part of the Salzburg Festival. A multitalented keyboardist and passionate jazz fan, he plays with and learns from pianist Emil Spanyi, vibraphonist Philippe Macé and drummer Georges Paczinski.

IURIE MORAR Cymbalum



Iurie Morar trained at the National Conservatoire of Moldova in Chisinau (USSR) and won the Stefan Neaga competition there before continuing his training in France at the Conservatoire de Strasbourg under Detlef Kieffer. Performing with various ensembles he has appeared with popular groups as well as symphony and chamber orchestras alongside artists such as Laurent Korcia, Sarah Nemtanu (with whom he has released a CD) and Gilles Apap (with whom he released the album Transilvanian Lointain Boys). In 2010 he made a guest appearance with the Orchestre de Paris to perform Stèle, György Kurtag's Opus 33, conducted by Pierre Boulez. Morar is also an arranger and conductor and in 2012 formed Le Grand Orchestre for whom he has composed and directed two shows – Tzars, which is centered around Caucasian and Eastern European music and dance, and Atmosphère, which focuses on film music from Chaplin's silent era to the Hollywood greats. He plays a cimbalom made by the Hungarian manufacturer Bohak.

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CYRILLE LEHN Arranger



Trained as a pianist and composer at the Strasbourg Conservatoire and the CNSM de Paris, Cyrille Lehn soon found himself attracted to improvisation, which he practises in very varied forms: recitals, accompanying silent films, concerts, and musical shows. His compositions have been featured on the programme of such notable venues as the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Festival de Radio France et de Montpellier, and the Festival de l'Empéri. He is fascinated by folk music and jazz, and has collaborated with the Sirba Octet since it was founded. Cyrille Lehn is professor of harmony at the CNSM de Paris and teaches improvisation at the Conservatoire du 14^e Arrondissement.

YANN OLLIVO Arranger



Born in 1972, Yann Ollivo began learning the piano at the age of eight. In 1984 he entered the CNSM de Paris, initially in the harmony and counterpoint class, and obtained Premiers Prix in harmony, counterpoint, fugue and forms, accompaniment, and conducting vocal music. His activity as an accompanist enables him to collaborate regularly with formations and institutions including the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Ensemble Intercontemporain, the Théâtre du Châtelet, the Prades Festival and Academy, and the Long-Thibaud Competition, and to work with such musicians as Armin Jordan, Pierre Boulez, Lawrence Foster, Scott Sandmeier, Arto Noras, Frans Helmerson, András Adorján, and David Grimal. His talents as a pianist and arranger led him to join the groups Sorties d'Artistes in 1998 and Sirba Octet in 2003. After teaching sight-reading and accompaniment at the Conservatoire du Centre de Paris for five years, Yann Ollivo has taught sight-reading to pianists at the CNSM de Paris since 2001.

DISCOGRAPHY

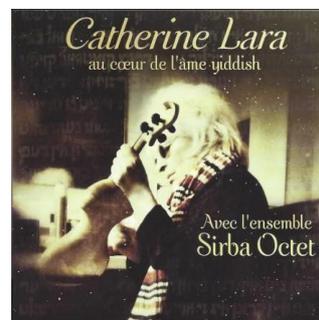
A YIDDISHE MAME

Label : Naïve Ambroisie
Production : Sirba Octet
Release date : 2005
Duration : 74 min



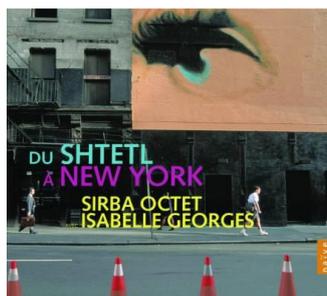
CATHERINE LARA AU CŒUR DE L'ÂME YIDDISH

Label : Sony Music
Production : Sony Music
Release date : 2012
Duration : 35 min



DU SHTETL A NEW YORK

Label : Naïve Ambroisie
Production : Sirba Octet
Release date : 2008
Duration : 63 min



TANTZ !

Label : Dolce Volta
Production : Dolce Volta
Release date : 2015
Duration : 66 min



YIDDISH RHAPSODY

Label : Naïve Ambroisie
Production : Sirba Octet
Release date : 2009
Duration : 71 min

