



"The effect is magical ... Bartók would have loved it all. This group should come back." *The Independent*

"...the recurring melody, which winds around the individual voices like a band, is decorated in the highest virtuosity by each instrument. What stands out is the intense communication of the musicians." *Niusic*



## PRESS RELEASE

Issued by Linn Records (For Immediate Release)

### Simon Trpčeski *piano*

Hidan Mamudov *clarinet, saxophone, kaval*, Aleksandar Krapovski *violin*, Alexander Somov *cello* and Vlatko Nushev *percussion*

### MAKEDONISSIMO

COMPOSER: Pande Shahov in collaboration with Simon Trpčeski  
Pletenki "Plaits"

**Plait 1** 1. Pembe, 2. Buvčansko, 3. Berovka, 4. Maleševka, 5. Crnogorka; **Plait 2** 6. Čije je ona devojče, 7. Ibrahim odža, 8. Beranče; **Plait 3** 9. Filka, moma, 10. Sitna lisa, 11. Staro Čunovo, 12. Ratevka, 13. Dračevka; **Plait 4** 14. Ne si go prodavaj, Koljo, čiflikot, 15. Žetvarki, 16. Čučuk; **Plait 5** 17. Veligdensko, 18. Piperkovo, 19. Pomniš li libe, Todoro, 20. Janino; **Plait 6** 21. Metovo, 22. Pelistersko, 23. Postupano

Linn CKD 636 – 1 CD

RELEASE DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020

## PIANIST SIMON TRPČESKI LEADS A VIRTUOSI ENSEMBLE IN JOYOUS NEW ARRANGEMENTS BY MACEDONIAN COMPOSER PANDE SHAHOV

"MAKEDONISSIMO", meaning "very Macedonian", sees Macedonian pianist Simon Trpčeski take a detour from Beethoven and Brahms to celebrate the music of his homeland, Macedonia. Trpčeski takes listeners on a joyous tour through the incredible rhythms and haunting melodies of the Macedonian folk music tradition in which highly intricate, jazz-influenced riffs and harmonies are seamlessly interwoven.

Inspired by Trpčeski's passion for the folk traditions of his homeland, Macedonian composer Pande Shahov (b. 1973), in collaboration with Trpčeski, created a six movement cycle he called *Pletenki (Plaits)*. In these new arrangements Shahov merges his own sound world - one which is influenced by impressionist attitudes to resonance and jazz harmony - with Macedonia's traditional music.

This project had its world premiere in May 2017 at the Ludwigsburg Festival, Germany, and went on to wow audiences in the UK (London, Liverpool, Birmingham), Slovenia (Ljubljana), France (Lille), Poland (Warsaw, Szczecin, Gdansk, Katowice), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Serbia (Belgrade), Montenegro (Bar), Romania (Cluj) and South Korea (Jeongseon, Wonju, Chuncheon).

Led by Trpčeski on piano the quintet of virtuosi musicians comprises Hidan Mamudov *clarinet, saxophone, kaval*, Aleksandar Krapovski *violin*, Alexander Somov *cello* and Vlatko Nushev *percussion*.

Trpčeski writes: 'I am thrilled about our collaboration with Linn Records and the release of this recording which I sincerely hope will bring warmth and joy to the audiences all over the world.'

For further information, please contact:

Cathy Hogg ▪ T: +44 (0) 7475 704 909 ▪ E: [cathy@outhere-music.com](mailto:cathy@outhere-music.com)

Outhere S.A., rue de l'Épargne 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Press room: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s51gd41dk254uz8/AACrMjGs3TLdG0HMGCaJsZiba?dl=0>

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS



### ABOUT SIMON TRPČESKI

Born in Macedonia, Simon Trpčeski studied with Boris Romanov. He was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist and was honoured with the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award in 2003. Trpčeski performs with leading orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, WDR Sinfonieorchester, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Amsterdam Koninklijk Concertgebouworkest, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Orchestre National de France, The Royal Danish Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Russian National Orchestra, State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia, China Philharmonic Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra, amongst others. He regularly gives solo recitals in New York, Paris, Munich, Prague, São Paulo, Sydney, Beijing, Tokyo and London where he was recently Artist-in-Residence at Wigmore Hall. He has performed at prestigious festivals including Verbier, Bergen, Baltic Sea and BBC Proms. Trpčeski is also a committed chamber musician, appearing with his regular duo partner Daniel Müller-Schott in the UK, Germany, USA and Canada. He has recorded prolifically; his first recording (EMI, 2002) was Gramophone's 'Editor's Choice'. His 2010 and 2011 albums of Rachmaninov's complete concertos were awarded a Diapason d'or de l'année and a Gramophone's 'Editor's Choice'

respectively. His recording of Prokofiev's Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 3 received a Diapason d'or in September 2017. His latest recital album Tales from Russia was named 'Instrumental Choice' in January 2020 by BBC Music Magazine. With the special support of KulturOp (Macedonia's cultural and arts organization), Trpčeski works regularly with young musicians in Macedonia to cultivate the country's next generation of artists.

### ABOUT MAKEDONISSIMO

Formed by the acclaimed pianist Simon Trpčeski, the MAKEDONISSIMO QUINTET also includes Hidan Mamudov (clarinet, alto saxophone and kaval), Aleksandar Krapovski (violin), Alexander Somov (cello) and Vlatko Nushev (percussion). Its first concert prompted glowing reviews: 'Quite magical' wrote *Süddeutsche Zeitung*; 'This group should come again' exclaimed *The Independent* after the UK premiere in Wigmore Hall, London, in 2018. Indeed, MAKEDONISSIMO produces a unique sound: it fuses incredible rhythms and haunting melodies of the Macedonian folk music tradition with highly virtuoso, jazz-influenced riffs and harmonies. The twenty-three dances and songs, especially selected by Trpčeski for this project, are interwoven in a truly unique fashion by the composer Pande Shahov. After its successful premiere in Germany at the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, the project travelled to Slovenia, UK, Poland, The Netherlands, France, Serbia, Montenegro and Romania; future performances include Canada, China, Hong Kong, Russia, New Zealand and Australia. The quintet featured on BBC Radio 3 In Tune programme, live Broadcast on YouTube from South Korea, as well as on other renowned TV and Radio broadcasters.



### ABOUT PANDE SHAHOV

Born in 1973, Pande Shahov studied composition with Risto Avramovski, before enrolling at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University's Faculty of Music, Skopje, where he graduated in the class of Tomislav Zografski. He also studied jazz harmony privately with the renowned composer and arranger Ilija Pejovski. As a Chevening Scholar of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Shahov completed his Postgraduate Diploma at the Royal College of Music, London, studying with Julian Anderson. In 2013, he was awarded his Doctorate by the Royal Holloway University of London, under Philip Cashian's supervision. Shahov lives in England and teaches a range of academic studies at the Royal College of Music, London, and Portsmouth Grammar School. His music has been performed by the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Bolshoi Theatre Symphony Orchestra, Macedonian National Opera and Ballet, New London Chamber Choir, Pro Ars, The Smith Quartet, Saxofonquadrat, as well as the ensembles orkest de ereprijs, Lontano, Ixion, Chroma Ensemble, New Noise, Contemporary Consort, Reconsil, Kokoro, California EAR Unit, ConTempora and Ensemble Horizonte. Shahov's collaboration with Simon Trpčeski dates back to the opening recital of the Southbank International Piano Series in London in 2009; Trpčeski commissioned a piece to commemorate the anniversary of Chopin's birth. Two movements of the suite *Songs and Whispers* relate to Chopin's works, whereas the other four are built around Macedonian folk songs. *The Guardian* praised it as 'genuinely resourceful and attractive work', whilst *Classical Source* wrote that 'the work is fiercely pianistic, with spiky jazz influences familiar from Stravinsky and Poulenc, and its ebullient virtuosity, very much in Rachmaninov territory, was right up Trpčeski's street.' Since its premiere at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Trpčeski performed the suite at some of the most prestigious concert halls, including the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris.



### ABOUT LINN

Scottish music label Linn Records was launched in 1982 with ground-breaking recordings. It is home to many exceptional artists ranging from the finest classical players to highly respected jazz vocalists and inspiring folk singer-songwriters. The result is a catalogue brimming with quality and diversity. Linn Records was the first label to offer Studio Master downloads DRM-free. Thousands of customers have already downloaded Studio Masters from Linn Records, demonstrating the demand for high quality music at home. This appetite for producing music exactly the way the artist intended it to sound saw Linn Records named as Gramophone's 'Label of the Year' in 2010. The award-winning record label was borne from the same enthusiasm for music and precision-engineering that are the founding values of Linn Products.

In 2017 Linn Records partnered with Outhere Music, whose family of labels includes Ricercar, Phi, Arcana, Aeon, Ramée, Outnote Records, Fuga Libera, Hat Hut and the group's flagship label, Alpha Classics.

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