

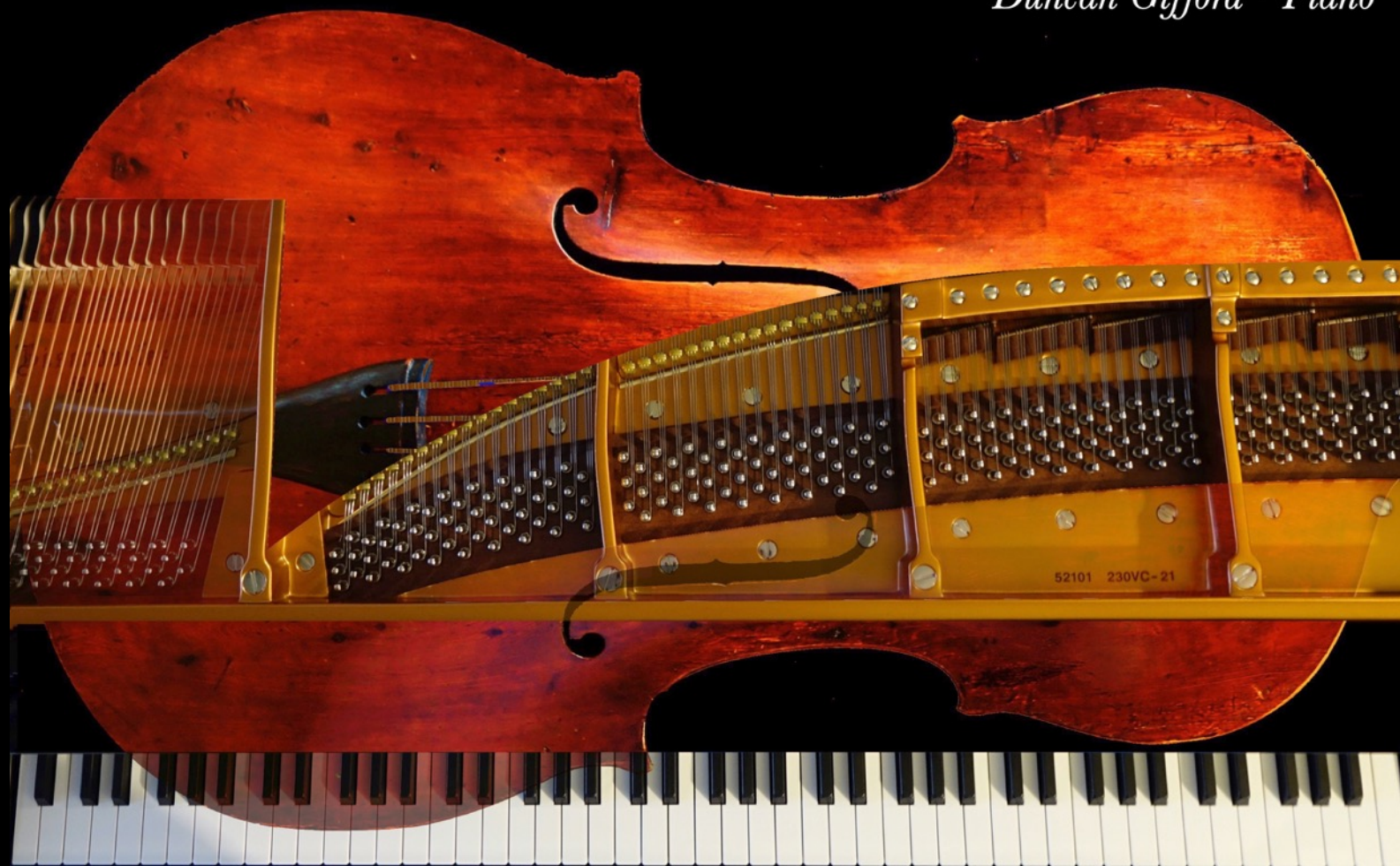
*Badalo
Zemek Novák
Gubaidulina
Reiner*



Boundaries

Contemporary works for Double Bass and Piano

*Luis Fonseca - Double Bass
Duncan Gifford - Piano*





Boundaries is a chamber music collection dedicated to contemporary music, focused on unusual instrumentation and bringing to light high-level repertory dedicated to these formations, which are not as well-known as they should be. These contemporary pieces also frequently have in common extremely difficult performing and technical demands, that bring musicians to the boundaries of their possibilities.

Inés Badalo - Spain (1989 -)

Cantos rodados (2015)

I composed “Cantos Rodados” at the end of the summer of 2015. I had previously been interested in the double bass due to its multiple timbre and expressive possibilities, using it a few months before in my chamber work “Nimbus Stratus”, and investigating its sound universe for my first orchestral work, out of catalogue nowadays.

As a result of these experiences, and helped by the fact of sharing my life project with a double bassist, I decided to explore this beautiful instrument and give it even greater prominence in a new work for double bass and piano.

“Cantos Rodados” is based on the Hispanic-American legend of “La Llorona” and revolves around the popular Mexican song, originally from the state of Oaxaca, which was popularized, among many others, by Chavela Vargas. From the beginning, both instruments establish a dialogue in which I explore different sonorities, both through the use of extended techniques and their conventional interpretation, with the intention of evoking the mystery and drama of the ancestral myth; the popular melody only emerges recognizable at the end of the piece. “Cantos Rodados” was one of my first approaches to the use of material from folklore, a concept occasionally used in some of my works, in which I have been guided by the value of tradition and its capacity for transformation to integrate into new compositional languages.

- Inés Badalo

World première recording.

Pavel Zemek Novák - Czech Republic (1957 -)

Bells (Pizzicato sonata) - (1998)

The original C version of The Bells (Pizzicato sonata) was written for a Double Bass competition at the Royal College of Music in London, 1998.

The form of this three movement cycle follows a common shape of Gregorian chant (A A' A'' ; Kyrie) and includes virtuoso elements, especially in the middle movement.

*After 20 years of silence, this cycle has been reborn in this new recording.
- Pavel Zemek Novák*

Published by Da_sh editions.

World première recording.

Sofia Gubaidulina - Russia (1931 -)

Sonata for Double Bass and Piano (1975)

The “Sonata for Double Bass and Piano” by Sofia Gubaidulina is a one movement work about 15 minutes long and quite unusual in form, where both instruments play a lot of sections separately and only some of them together. Gubaidulina makes frequent use of extended techniques on the Double Bass and uses a rhythmical motive (one triplet and two quavers repeating the same note) to connect all the sections. An intimate relationship between these sections is also achieved with extremely intelligent time modulations. Gubaidulina is one of the most important Russian composers from the generation after Shostakovich and one of the most prominent living composers of our time; writing this piece for the Double Bass brings a masterpiece to this instrument’s repertoire.

Karel Reiner - Czech Republic (1910 - 1979)

Sonata for Double Bass and Piano (1958)

A survivor from Terezin's concentration camp and pursued afterwards by the Soviet Union as a "formalist", Karel Reiner is deeply connected to the new socialist musical culture of contemporary Czech Republic.

A student of Alois Haba, he followed his footsteps and his incessant search for new forms of expression, achieving his own compositional style. Despite the use of conventional harmony and bitonal ideas, the character of his "Sonata for Double Bass and Piano" is truly contemporary in its language.

The Sonata is written in three movements following the traditional fast - slow - fast structure, where the composer explores the singing possibilities of the Double Bass and a lot of technical passages that make the piece quite complicated for the interpreter, especially in the virtuoso last movement.

This sonata was dedicated to the famous bassist František Hertl, who was the double bass professor in Prague at the time Reiner composed the piece. The "Sonata for Double Bass and Piano" is an important asset in the modern literature of the Double Bass, although its knowledge and acceptance among bass players is still far away from the relevance of the piece and quality of composition, making it rarely played as consequence.

Luis Fonseca - Double Bass



Luis Fonseca is a polyvalent artist, musician, composer, professor and entrepreneur based in Madrid, Spain.

He has studied Architecture in São Paulo, Brazil, where he is originally from; he has studied Double Bass in Frankfurt am Main, Germany; period music in Basel, Switzerland; he has a Master's degree in electroacoustic composition and a Doctor's degree in algorithmic composition, both in Madrid.

He has played in many orchestras around the world, as well as being a chamber musician and Double Bass soloist. He has taught Double Bass in different Conservatories in Spain and given masterclasses in many other schools and festivals around the world.

As a composer he has won several international prizes and his music has been played in more than 15 countries. He is currently employed in the Royal Opera Theater in Madrid as a Double Bass player and he is the co-founder, partner and artistic manager of Da_sh music in Madrid, besides his intense work as a composer.

Luis Fonseca plays in this recording with a French Double Bass made by Sigmund Hitzelberger Double Bass made in Pfronten (Tirol, 1853) in all pieces but Gubaidulina's "Sonata for Double Bass and Piano", in which he plays a Jaquet Gand Double Bass (Mirecourt, ca. 1870). He plays with a bow made specially for him by Santiago Pardo / Madrid.

Duncan Gifford - Piano



Australian pianist Duncan Gifford firmly established himself as a major artist of his generation with international successes of 1st Prize in the Maria Callas Grand Prix de Piano in Athens, Greece (2000), 1st Prize in the Concours Prix Mozart in Lausanne, Switzerland (1999) and 1st Prize in the prestigious Jose Iturbi International Piano Competition in Spain (1998). Other competition successes included 3rd Prize in the Sydney International Piano Competition (1992), 3rd Prize in the Montreal International Piano Competition (1996), and 4th Prize in the Dublin International Piano Competition (1994).

Duncan Gifford was a student of Margaret Hair at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. In 1991 he commenced study at the Moscow State Conservatory in the class of Professor Lev Vlassenko, graduating with a Master's Degree in Piano Performance. Gifford later completed his postgraduate studies with Professor Joaquin Soriano in Madrid, where he currently resides.

Duncan Gifford has performed in recital throughout Europe, Asia, Russia, and Australia. As soloist he has appeared with all the major Australian symphony orchestras, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de la Camerata Mozart of Rome, Czech National Orchestra, National Orchestra of Ireland, Metropolitan Orchestra of Montreal, Radio Orchestra of Rumania, Russian State Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of Valencia, the Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra and the Madrid Community Orchestra.

In 1999 he made his US debut, performing in Carnegie Hall in New York and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles.

In February 2003 he made his Viennese debut, performing with the Vienna Chamber

Orchestra in the Vienna Konzerthaus. In October 2003 he appeared for the first time in China, playing with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. In 1993 Duncan Gifford released his first CD featuring the music of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. His 1995 CD recording of the complete Debussy Preludes received great critical acclaim in Australia and the United States and was nominated for 'Australian Classical Record of the Year'. In 2004 he released his third CD of works for piano and orchestra by Saint-Saens, Franck and D'Indy, together with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. Gifford's latest recordings are of the complete Schumann Piano Trios (ABC classics) with the Kingfisher Trio, and a world premiere recording of Jose Luis Greco's piano concerto "Geographies of Silence" with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, released in 2017 on the Naxos label.

Duncan Gifford has been based in Madrid, Spain since 1997 where he maintains a busy performing and teaching schedule.

Da_sh recordings is the musical label of Da_sh music, strongly interested in bringing contemporary music from any style or precedence to the spotlight, where the general public is able to appreciate and get to know new music and extraordinary composers and works that are not often played or as recognized as they deserve.

Da_sh music nevertheless realizes all of this work as a private enterprise, using funds raised by the generation of its own work.

If you enjoyed this album and would like to help us continue to record, edit and realize digital art (videos), please donate any amount to our account:

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We will keep donors informed of all our news regarding albums, videos, editions, concerts and any interesting information from our production upfront!

This album was recorded between April 30th and May 2nd, 2022 in the “Quiet Music studios” in Madrid / Spain.

Duncan Gifford is playing a Bösendorfer 230 Vienna Concert piano on all tracks.

We would like to send a special thanks to Pedro O’ Connor and Carlos Danes from “Quiet Music studios” for providing their wonderful room and piano, as well as for their help and kindness, that made us feel like home while recording.

Inés Badalo

1 *Cantos rodados for Double Bass and Piano* (09:59)

Pavel Zemek Novák

Bells (Pizzicato sonata) for Double Bass and Piano

2 *I.* (03:13)

3 *II.* (02:19)

4 *III.* (03:10)

Sofia Gubaidulina

5 *Sonata for Double Bass and Piano* (15:35)

Karel Reiner

Sonata for Double Bass and Piano

6 *Allegro energico* (05:26)

7 *Poco grave* (05:50)

8 *Allegro vivo* (05:21)

Total time: (50:53)

