



# KATYA SOURIKOVA

## QUEEN MAUD LAND

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#### Production Overview:

Katya Sourikova's *Queen Maud Land* is an inspired musical dramatisation of Antarctic explorer Robert Scott's emotional journey on his fateful 1911-1912 expedition. A truly international collaboration, Katya is joined by Grammy award-winning vibraphonist Andrei Pushkarev, premiere European accordionist Ksenija Sidarova, Ruslan Vilensky, the leading Latvian cellist of his generation. Together with German bassist Simon Bauer and Norwegian drummer Ståle Birkeland, this extraordinary ensemble brings the story to life with exquisite musicianship and passionate performances.

The production can be scaled from the core of 6 soloists, to a larger chamber ensemble including strings. This creates the possibility for collaboration with local ensembles and an opportunity for a vocalist and/or narrator. A strong visual narrative is woven into the production, with projected backdrops, acted sequences and extracts from Robert Scott's diaries, immersing the audience in an unforgettable experience.

# PERFORMERS



## Katya Sourikova

Raised in St Petersburg and London, Katya Sourikova's musical and cultural background has always been diverse. After training as a classical pianist at the prestigious Guildhall School and then the Royal College of Music, she began a long exploration of Jazz, finding a her musical voice somewhere between these two worlds both as a composer and improviser.

In 2004, Katya made her first recordings with Canadian musicians Ivan Bamford and Remi-Jean leBlanc. In 2005, the trio performed at the Baku International Jazz Festival alongside heavyweights such as Joe Zawinul and Greg Osby.

At the Banff Jazz and Creative Music Workshop in 2006, Katya's mentors Dave Douglas and Marilyn Crispell helped her focus her creative energies. The resulting two albums *Steps in the Snow* and *Angels & Satellites* were recorded in New York and subsequently released by Weave Records in 2008 and 2010.

In 2011, Weave Records released Katya's third album *Ivan's Dream*. Recorded in Berlin, the album and resulting live project received critical acclaim, with the Katya Sourikova Group performing at the London Jazz festival in 2011.

Also in 2011, Katya began to rearrange many compositions for chamber music ensembles, thus bringing her journey from her classical roots and through the jazz idiom full circle. This has resulted in two new live projects, *Queen Maud Land* for chamber ensemble and Jazz Quartet, and *Casa Mila* for Piano and Cello duet. New releases for these projects are expected in late 2013.



## Ksenija Sidorova

Ksenija Sidorova was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1988, and began playing the accordion at the age of 8. Her grandmother had roots in the folk accordion tradition and was keen for the young Ksenija to take up the instrument.

At 16, she moved to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music as she wanted to explore more classical and contemporary repertoire. She now plays a huge range of music, from Bach to Berio, and Scarlatti to Schnittke. Her virtuosic debut album, *Classical Accordion*, impressed critics and demonstrated the 'serious' side of the accordion.

Sidorova has gathered an impressive collection of awards, and played with guitarist Miloš Karadaglić, Nicola Benedetti, the Sacconi quartet and the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra. She has also performed at numerous international venues including the Wigmore Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and the Lucerne Festival.



## Andrei Pushkarev

Ukrainian virtuosic solo vibraphonist Andrei Pushkarev is Ukraine's only Grammy Winner and soloist of the acclaimed Kremerata Baltica chamber orchestra.

Born into a family of Kiev musicians in 1974, he began his musical education as a pianist before switching to vibraphone. From 1992 he studied at Kiev's Tchaikovsky National Conservatory, where he continued his professional development with Professor Alexander Blinov. In 1995, as a solo vibraphonist, he was awarded the first prize in the newly established "New Names of Ukraine" competition, where he also performed his own musical compositions.

In 1996, Pushkarev became solo percussionist of the Kiev Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 1999 Andrei Pushkarev has been a member of the Kremerata Baltica chamber orchestra, under the artistic direction of Gidon Kremer. He has been on tour around the world with this ensemble and has participated in numerous CD recordings. In 2004 he recorded the "Bach Vibrations" cycle – improvisations on the two-part inventions by J. S. Bach. This CD was recently recognised by the Deutsche Schallplattenkritik Bestenliste (Quarterly Critics' Choice of the German Record Critics) as the discovery of the year.

Pushkarev has performed with musicians such as Yo Yo Ma, Yury Bashmet, Martha Argerich, Julian Rachlin, Gabriela Montero, and Michel Portal, as well as with conductors such as Yury Temirkanov, Voldemar Nelsson, and Roman Kofman.

In 2004, Pushkarev was awarded "Pro Europe" foundation prize. In 2005 he was on a world duo-tour with Gidon Kremer and in 2006 he took part in Gidon Kremer's trio project "From Bach to Piazzolla". In 2010, together with Gidon Kremer and the Argentinean bandoneonist Dino Saluzzi, he recorded "Themes from the Songbook" – music from cinema and theater by the Georgian composer Giya Kancheli for the renowned ECM music label.

For several years, Pushkarev has been giving master classes worldwide and has served as member of the jury at various international competitions.



## Ruslan Vilensky

Ruslan Vilensky is one of the most famous Latvian cellists of his generation. He was 15 years old when he made his debut with Latvian National Symphony Orchestra in Riga. Having studied with world-renowned Professor David Geringas, he has become a much sought-after soloist and chamber musician performing in many countries. From 2007 until 2009 he was a fellow of the Orchestra Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic. Following an invitation from Maestro Valery Gergiev in October 2009, he was Principal Guest Cellist for the Mariinsky Theatre Symphony Orchestra, touring Japan, USA, Canada, Europe and Russia.

Highlights of previous seasons include appearances with Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin playing Shostakovich Concerto Nr. 2, and Orchestra Sinfonietta Riga playing Prokofiev Sinfonia Concertante. He has also performed with the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra and has been Guest Principal Cellist with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Mariinsky Theatre Symphony Orchestra.

As a soloist, Ruslan has performed with Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Armenian National Orchestra, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Norddeutsche Philharmonie, Kaunas Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonietta Riga, Orquesta Sinfonica Freixenet, Liepaja Symphony Orchestra and the Latvian Chamber Orchestra.

Among his chamber music partners are artists such as David Geringas, Silvia Markovici, Harthmut Rohde, Paul Rivinius, Matthias Kirschnereit, Ulf Hoelscher, Paul Rozenhal, Arvids Klishans, Isabel Charisius and others. He has collaborated with early music specialists Reinhard Goebels and Giovanni Antonini, performing Bach and Handel. He has performed at many festivals including Acanthes Festival in France, Pazaislis Festival in Lithuania, Santander Festival in Spain, Mstislav Rostropovich Cello Festival, and the Beauvais festival in France.



## Ståle Birkeland

Ståle Birkeland was born in Voss, Norway in 1981. He moved to the UK in 2002 to study music at Leeds College of Music, completing both a BA and an MMus in jazz performance.

In Leeds Ståle rapidly developed a reputation as a talented and skilful improviser, and has since been collaborating with musicians such as Frode Gjerstad, Didrik Ingvaldsen, Matthew Bourne, Pete Whareham, Simon Fell, Alexander von Schlippenbach, as well as David Liebman. In spring 2007, Ståle made his first solo performance when he performed Pierre Alexandre Tremblay's piece for a free jazz drummer, processing, and interactive system, entitled 'La Rage'. This piece was the main feature in the April edition of the SPNM's (Society for Promotion of New Music) series The Sound Source, and was performed at the ICA (The Institute for Contemporary Art) in London. Ståle now lives in Stavanger, Norway, touring and working extensively in groups such as The Geordie Approach, EGG3, Kitchen Orchestra, Pocket Corner, Maschinenfestung and Robblerobble.



## Simon Bauer

Simon Bauer was born in 1980 in Freiburg. He plays bass and composes music, and is very pleased when he is able to dissolve the boundaries between different genres and art forms.

Bauer wanted to play bass from an early age, beginning as soon as his arms were long enough. He first trained in classical music in Freiburg, and later in Berlin, where he also began jazz studies. He also studied in Lucerne, Switzerland, receiving a jazz diploma there in 2007.

Has since been immersed in performances throughout Europe, including among others: Jazz Festival Leverkusen Jazz Festival Bern, Danube Island Festival in Vienna, Burghausen Jazz Festival, Festival of Voices Nuremberg, Jazzmeile Thuringia, c / o pop festival in Cologne, Breminale, Forms of Theater festival Brunswick Merger, and the London Jazz Festival with Katya Sourikova in 2011.

# TECHNICAL RIDER

## Sextet version

Performance time: 60 minutes

Stage size: 40m<sup>2</sup>

Instruments/Performers:

Grand Piano, Drum Kit (supplied by venue).

Cello, Vibraphone, Accordion, Double Bass (supplied by performers)

Appropriate seating and illuminated music stands required.

Stage lighting to be discussed with venue prior to performance.

Projector and projector screen desirable (options can be discussed with venue prior).

## Ensemble version

As above, with the following changes:

Performance time: 90 minutes (approx.)

Stage size: 60 - 80 m<sup>2</sup>

Instruments/Performers:

Soloists (as above), plus strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Double Bass).

Parts may be doubled according to availability.

Optional Narrator and/or Singer: Microphone(s) and P.A. system required.

