

Kleztory with Orchestra

Klezmer Ensemble

www.kleztory.com

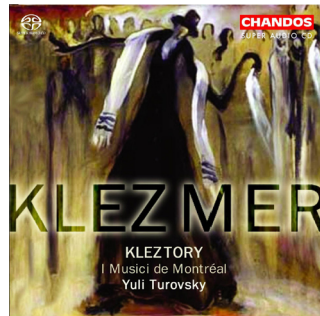


"...Sweet nostalgia mixed with wild harmonies...The sound of Kleztory expresses their unique sensitivity combined with a true authenticity of interpretation..."

—Voo.ca, le média de la relève culturelle, Montréal

In 2004, Kleztory recorded its second CD, *Klezmer*, with the string orchestra I Musici de Montréal, Yuli Turovsky, conducting. The fifteen pieces on the Chandos album, mostly arranged from traditional sources by Airat Ichmouratov, Henry Oppenheim and Elvira Misbakhova, can be performed by string sections as small as I Musici's (9 violins, 3 violas, 2 cellos & 1 double-bass), as large as a symphony orchestra, or anywhere inbetween. The repertoire can be conducted or led by clarinetist Airat Ichmouratov.

Kleztory's program with orchestra makes a perfect addition to any pops concert as well as a delightful alternative on any classical music series.



Kleztory has performed this repertoire with numerous orchestras including the Montréal & Quebec Symphony Orchestras, the 13 Strings Ensemble of Ottawa, the Laval Symphony Orchestra and the Brussels Chamber Orchestra.

Kleztory's roots go back to 1997, when guitarist Alain Legault founded Les Gitans Sédentaires. Joined by bassist Mark Peetsma, the group performed more than two hundred shows in the following two years.

Latitude 45 Arts

"The Fresh Sound of Virtuosity"

Barbara Scales, Director
109 St. Joseph Blvd. West
Montréal Qc Canada
H2T 2P7

Tel: 514 276 2694

Fax: 514 905 4143

E-mail:

info@latitude45arts.com

www.latitude45arts.com

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In 2000, this fine tuned rhythm section was joined by the classically trained clarinetist & conductor Airat Ichmouratov, and became known as Simha. In early 2002, with the addition of violinist Elvira Misbakhova and accordionist Henri Oppenheim, Kleztory became a traditional klezmer ensemble and is one of the most dynamic klezmer ensembles in Canada today.

Kleztory has played in a wide variety of Montreal venues and in 2003 they performed over forty concerts in Quebec, however the band credits their cohesion, their spirit and their signature sound to the experience they garnered while busking in the streets.

Klezmer is the traditional music of nomadic Jewish musicians who traveled throughout Eastern Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These musicians took inspiration from the popular music of the day and integrated their own unique vocabulary, born from a history that was rich and too often tragic.

Like the music they perform, the musicians of Kleztory represent a rich mosaic of cultures (Russian, Canadian, Québécois and French), musical training (academic and self taught) and musical tastes (classical, contemporary, jazz, blues, country and folk).

Combining their talents, these five musicians perform with an emotion and a virtuosity that is the true spirit of klezmer. Through the use of innovative arrangements that are respectful of the original compositions, Kleztory has forged a unique, yet still authentic musical path.

Kleztory produced its first CD entitled *Kleztory – Musique Klezmer* at the beginning of 2003. Their third recording, *Nomade*, was released in 2007. This album won them an Opus Prize in 2007 as the best 'jazz / world music' album of the year in Québec.

Diverse cultural backgrounds, passion, experience and dedication make Kleztory an exciting and unique ensemble in the world music scene.

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