

IGUDESMAN & JOO

In 2006, Igudesman & Joo had their own Chamber Music & Comedy Festival in Kastav, Croatia, and in 2009, they toured Germany, Holland, and Belgium as part of the "Night of the Proms," appearing in front of half a million people, next to, and together with rock legends such as Simple Minds, Kim Wilde, Sinéad O'Connor, Live, Tears for Fears, 10CC, Midge Ure from Ultravox, Dennis De Young from Styx, and Robin Gibb from the Bee Gees.

Igudesman & Joo recently joined forces with Gidon Kremer and the Kremerata Baltica for a new comedy and music project titled "Cinema & Comedy: The Rise And Fall Of A Classical Musician," which can be seen at the Schleswig-Holstein and Rheingau Festival, but also in Asia and Europe, including Russia in tours over the next years. Since the critically and publicly acclaimed premier of "A Little Nightmare Music" in 2004 in the Vienna Musikverein, one of the most prestigious venue for classical music in the world, Igudesman & Joo, have been taking the classical music world, as well as theaters and festivals around the world by storm. Invitations followed to perform in Norway, Holland, Germany, Italy, France, Croatia, and Austria. Prestigious musicians, such as the world famous violinists, Gidon Kremer, Julian Rachlin and Janine Jansent, immediately invited the unique duo to perform at their respective festivals in Lockenhaus, Dubrovnik, and Utrecht.

Furthermore, they have been re-invited to perform several times in the Vienna Musikverein in the fall of 2006. In July that year they were invited by star cellist Natalia Gutman to perform in the Oleg Kagan Festival in Kreuth, Germany, where they also played several numbers together. Igudesman & Joo run their own Chamber Music & Comedy Festival in Kastav, Croatia, where they invite top notch classical musicians to perform chamber music, theater, and comedy together with them. Future plans include their zany view on Mozart, with their project "Mozart? No, Thank You!" as well as performances of "A Little Nightmare Music" in Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, USA, UK, Holland, Austria, Germany, and Italy.

On the internet forum YouTube, their clips have been watched over 10 million times, to date. A one-hour version of an early performance in the Vienna Musikverein of "Igudesman & Joo: A Little Nightmare Music" is available on their homepage. Igudesman & Joo also have a show, which they do with symphony- and chamber orchestras, called "A Big Nightmare Music." They are currently writing on a TV series, mixing classical music with humor.

For more information about Igudesman & Joo and "A Little Nightmare Music," please visit www.igudesmanandjoo.com.

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IGUDESMAN & JOO
A LITTLE NIGHTMARE MUSIC

OCT. 10, 2009 • 7:30 p.m. • LAXSON AUDITORIUM

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A LITTLE NIGHTMARE MUSIC

...JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO TO THE CONCERT HALL...

The concert begins. The music is sublime. Not even a pin would dare drop. Suddenly, a cell phone rings and the madness starts. The pianist loses his hand, the violinist, while tuning, falls asleep, and later wakes up in the middle of a motorway, transformed into a "Riverdancer." When the pianist returns, the piano is locked, telling him to insert his credit card. Meanwhile, the violinist loses his bow to a vacuum cleaner, and his partner just talks on the phone while reading a paper, eating, and playing the piano upside down all at the same time. These and many other "nightmares" unfold before audiences' eyes and ears.

"A Little Nightmare Music" is a unique show, full of virtuosity, enchanting music, and zany, outrageous humour. Ideal for audiences aged 8 to 88, this show is sure to captivate you and crack you up whether you are a classical music enthusiast or the type who runs for cover at the mere mention of Mozart.

Aleksey and Hyung-ki have been working together since their beginnings at the Yehudi Menuhin School at the age of 12. Bringing together music with theater and comedy was never alien to them. Through the years they developed their ideas in various ensembles and other projects, giving them time to ripen and to develop into their ground breaking new show. The ideas are gathered on many levels; sometimes they stem from the music, sometimes from situations in the music or theater world, or just every day occurrences. Their big inspirations are old time greats such as *Monty Python*, Victor Borge, as well as today's Little Britain and *Southpark*.

The unusual duo sparks inspiration off in each other. When someone brings an idea along, one can be sure that the other will pick up on it and suggest something that will lead it off into a completely different direction. Together they then develop it into a hilarious musical sketch or a touching, yet amusing piece of music. Great care is taken to make the humor and performance appreciable for both young and old, music aficionado and first comer, in order not to alienate a potential new audience. Their humor always works on several levels. When a joke is made at the expense of something that someone with knowledge of music will appreciate more, they always have a parallel level, where something happens that is either funny or beautiful in a way that everyone will understand and be touched by it.

A very important part for Igudesman & Joo is bringing more young people and people who might not be acquainted to it, to enjoy the world of classical music. The responses after their performances have highlighted this strongly, as they were often told, that people who were new to these genres were highly inspired to go to regular concerts. And many music students have changed their minds of giving up their instrument!

ALEKSEY IGUDESMAN

Born in St. Petersburg, virtuosic versatile violinist Aleksey Igudesman is also an internationally acclaimed composer, comedian, and conductor. Aleksey studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and later at the Vienna Conservatoire with Boris Kuschner. He has played and worked with some of the biggest icons of the music world that include Bobby McFerrin, Billy Joel, Academy Award-winning composer Hans Zimmer, and star violinists Julian Rachlin and Janine Jansen. He is a founding member of the internationally renowned string trio "Triology."

The group has recorded several CDs for the BMG label, including one with the legendary jazz guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel. Igudesman's playing and arrangements are also featured on the soundtracks of Disney's *The Road to El Dorado* and the movie *Spanglish* by Academy Award winner James L. Brooks. His love of comedy and classical music led him to found his "Music & Comedy Company." As a composer, Igudesman's works are performed worldwide by numerous orchestras, such as the Ambassade Orchestra, Vienna and the San Remo Symphony Orchestra, where he is also a regular guest conductor. His music is published by Universal Edition. Aleksey Igudesman plays a Santo Serafin 1717 violin, kindly loaned to him by Erste Bank.

RICHARD HYUNG-KI JOO

Born in England, of South Korean parents, Richard Hyung-ki Joo began his formal training in the United Kingdom at the Menuhin School with Peter Norris and Seta Tanyel, and he later earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Nina Svetlanova. Other teachers include Richard Goode and Oleg Maisenberg. Hailed by Yehudi Menuhin as "a most engaging human being of great talent" the British-Korean pianist, composer, and creator and star of "Igudesman & Joo: A Little Nightmare Music," Richard Hyung-ki Joo, has captivated audiences throughout the world with his multi-dimensional artistry and irresistible charisma. Grand Prize Winner of the Stravinsky International Piano Competition, he has performed all around the world including venues such as Carnegie Hall, Musikverein, Barbican Hall, and a command performance for the U.S. President at the White House.

The legendary songwriter, Billy Joel, chose Joo to arrange and record Joel's classical piano pieces for the album *Fantasies and Delusions*, which was released on the Sony Classical label. It was recorded at the Mozart-Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, and reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts for 18 weeks.

