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FEDERICO MONDELICI *saxophones*
Favorite Italian Movie Music
MORRICONE • ROTA • MOLINELLI

MOSCOW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
CONSTANTINE ORBELIAN *conductor*

ENNIO MORRICONE *

- ① The Mission (5:03)
- ② Sean Sean (3:29)
- ③ My Heart And I (5:57)
- ④ Once Upon a Time In the West (4:32)
- ⑤ Song for Elena (5:13)

ROBERTO MOLINELLI

Four Pictures from New York

- ⑥ Dreamy Dawn (5:07)
- ⑦ Tango Club (4:50)
- ⑧ Sentimental Evening (6:19)
- ⑨ Broadway Night (5:07)

NINO ROTA **

- ⑩ Eight and a Half (7:13)
- ⑪ Amarcord (6:35)
- ⑫ La Dolce Vita (5:40)

Basinia Shulman, piano (tracks 1-3, 5-7, 9)
Dmitry Ilugdin, piano (track 8)

* arranged by Roberto Molinelli

** arranged by Giovanni Indulti

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 65:07



Photo by Moreno Maggi

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NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

To highlight the virtuosity of Italian saxophonist **Federico Mondelci**, the prominent Italian composer and arranger **Roberto Molinelli** has written a striking concerto for saxophone and orchestra entitled **Four Pictures from New York***.

With movement titles such as Dreamy Dawn, Tango Club, Sentimental Evening and Broadway Night, this composition serves as a salute to a great American city and an attractive showpiece for an exceptional soloist and orchestra.

Four Pictures from New York is featured between works by two other Italian composers, both world-famous and both particularly well-known for their outstanding film scores.

Nino Rota (1911-1979) and **Ennio Morricone** (1928-) have set the gold standard world-wide for memorable movie music. Working with great film directors including Federico Fellini, Giuseppe Tornatore, Roland Joffe, Sergio Leone and others between the 1950s and the 1990s, they have created a series of movie scores which have influenced composers of film music everywhere. Their memorable themes and unforgettable songs have delighted entire generations of moviegoers.

Five pieces derived from scores of Ennio Morricone have been arranged for saxophone solo and orchestra by Roberto Molinelli. Film fans everywhere will be delighted to hear favorite music from *The Mission*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, *La Piovra*, and *A Fistful of Dynamite* in this new guise. Morricone received an honorary Academy Award on February 25, 2007 for his "magnificent and multifaceted contributions to the art of film music."

Following Molinelli's own Four Pictures from New York, the recording concludes with music by Nino Rota arranged for saxophone and Orchestra by Giovanni Indulti. Fellini's films *Eight and a Half*, *Amarcord* and *La Dolce Vita* have been recognized as cinema masterpieces, and all three feature outstanding scores by Nino Rota, who lavished on them some of his most memorable melodies. Our unique arrangements of music from these three gems allow Federico Mondelci, Constantine Orbelian and the Moscow Chamber Orchestra to pay tribute to the very special talents of this great Italian composer.

**Notes from the composer Roberto Molinelli -*

Four Pictures from New York - four images of the world's most famous and most universal metropolis:

I wrote this concerto for saxophone and orchestra inspired by the Big Apple, as it appears to the eyes of a European in love with America and its music and culture.

In *Dreamy Dawn*, I describe the sunrise in a radiant dawn, limpid and serene but modern at the same time: daybreak as a background of the skyscrapers of Manhattan in an enchanting spectacle.

Tango Club is a piece dedicated to the grand master of tango Astor Piazzolla, New Yorker by adoption. It is written in the style of Argentinian tango, imagined in one of the many metropolitan dance clubs where Latin-American music is played.

Sentimental Evening, a jazz ballad, is unique for the presence of a jazz trio to accompany the saxophone soloist: in fact it is composed for jazz players (piano, double-bass, drums) with string accompaniment.

The last movement, *Broadway Night*, depicts the irrepressible nightlife, the scintillating spectacle of light and color that is Times Square, where, on the streets outside the legendary Broadway theaters, musical atmosphere is lived and breathed.

In the past 20 years, **Federico Mondelci** has established himself as one of the leading saxophonists of his generation. His principal studies were at the Conservatorio Statale di Musica 'G. Rossini' in Italy and later with Jean-Marie Londeix at the Bordeaux Conservatoire in France. In 1981, he was awarded the Premier Prix et Medaille d'Or a l'Unanimite.

Mondelci has represented Italy on several occasions in World Saxophone Festivals in Germany, Japan, USA, and Spain. In Italy, he has performed as soloist with all the major orchestras, including the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala at La Scala, Milan, conducted by Seiji Ozawa. Mondelci has frequently performed in Russia and now enjoys a particularly close relationship with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, with whom he recorded, on Delos, a CD of Piazzolla Tangos (DE 3252) that was a *New York Times* "Pick of the Week."

Mondelci has been an active promoter of contemporary music. Numerous compositions have been dedicated to him and subsequently performed and broadcast for many important venues in Europe and America. His recording of *Kya* by Giacinto Scelsi was recently awarded the "Diapason d'Or" and a CD for RCA included music written for him by Italian contemporary composers. In 2006, Mondelci gave the world premiere of Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra by the New Zealand composer John Psathas.

Federico Mondelci has also added conducting to his concert activities and since 1990 has appeared regularly throughout Italy with many important orchestras and outstanding soloists such as Ilya Grubert, Michael Nyman, Kathryn Stott, Pavel Vernikov, Massimo Mercelli, Francesco Manara and Luisa Castellani. In recent seasons, Mondelci has been a frequent guest conductor in Germany, directing concerts to great acclaim.

Recent appearances as concerto soloist include the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Raanana Symphonette of Israel, Armenian State Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica del Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, Tchaikovsky Philharmonia of Moscow, United Europe Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana, Orchestra Haydn di Bolzano, Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese, Orchestra Sinfonica di Lecce, Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto, Orchestra I Filarmonici di Verona.

Mondelci is the founder of the Italian Saxophone Quartet, which tours worldwide, has won several chamber music competitions, and has been called "among the most interesting groups on the Italian musical scene" by *Il Messaggero*, Rome.



Photo by Lorenzo Cicconi Massi

Pianist **Basinia Shulman** is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, where her teacher was the renowned Eliso Virsaladze. She is a prize-winner of international piano competitions - Jose Iturbi in Spain, Ragusa Ibla in Italy and Artlivre in Brazil. As a recitalist, she has toured extensively both in Russia and internationally, performing at the Moscow Conservatory (Great Hall) and Tchaikovsky Concert Halls in Moscow, Royal Albert Hall in London, Beethoven Hall in Germany, Palau de la Musica in Spain, and Teatro Municipal in Brazil. She has made appearances in music festivals in Moscow, Germany and France, and has performed with the Moscow New Opera Orchestra, Valencia Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. As a chamber musician, she has played with Yuri Bashmet, Vadim Repin, the Borodin Quartet, the soloists of the Moscow Virtuosi Orchestra, and others.



Her recent major performances includes an appearance with A. Chernov in a program featuring the ten Beethoven sonatas for violin and piano.

Apart from classical music, Ms. Shulman's dedication is to jazz. In this area, her especially notable performances have been "Classical Music + Jazz," and "Rio - New York," where her partners were saxophonist Alexei Kozlov and Grammy Award winning pianist Milcho Leviev. Ms. Shulman has recorded three CDs of music by Mozart and Ravel.



Pianist and composer **Dmitri Ilugdin** is a graduate of the Gnessin Academy of Music, where he studied under Igor Brill. As a pianist he has performed both as a soloist and as a member of the renowned Arsenal group under Alexei Kozlov. He has written music for a number of films and for television. He is a winner of the youth "Triumph" prize.

"**Constantine Orbelian** stands astride two great societies, and finds and promotes synergistic harmony from the best of each." (*Fanfare*) The brilliant American pianist conductor is a central figure in Russia's musical life. As Music Director of the celebrated Moscow Chamber Orchestra and Permanent Guest Conductor of the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, Orbelian has a unique leadership position with two of Russia's most illustrious orchestras. His appointment in 1991 as Music Director of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra was a breakthrough event: he is the first American ever to become music director of an ensemble in Russia. This "American in Moscow" is also well known as a tireless champion of Russian-American cultural exchange and international ambassadorship through his worldwide tours with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. In January, 2004, President Putin awarded Orbelian the coveted title "Honored Artist of Russia," a title never before bestowed on a non-Russian citizen.

"Orbelian has star quality, and his orchestra plays with passion and precision," *The Audio Critic* wrote of Maestro Orbelian's acclaimed series of recordings on Delos. Orbelian's ambitious new series of nearly 30 recordings on Delos features both the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia of Russia. With the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Maestro Orbelian is currently embarking on a series of recordings celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the MCO, and featuring repertoire either written for the Orchestra or closely associated with its illustrious history.

Orbelian's worldwide tours with the MCO include concerts during 2005 and 2006 in New York, Washington, Miami, London, Paris, Munich, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Seoul, Prague and Istanbul. In July, 2005, Orbelian conducted baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky and the MCO in a live telecast in Tokyo, followed by a concert in Tokyo's Opera City Concert Hall, and a concert in Seoul's Sejong Center together with Korean soprano Sumi Jo. In 2004, Orbelian conducted legendary pianist Van Cliburn and the Moscow Philharmonic in a special memorial concert at Moscow's Great Hall, dedicated to the children of Beslan. Orbelian led New York's only Khachaturian Centennial Concert in 2003, with the Philharmonia of Russia and Marina Domashenko. *Opera News* calls Constantine Orbelian "the singer's dream collaborator," and commented that he conducts vocal repertoire "with the sensitivity of a lieder pianist." Among his recent concert appearances are collaborations with vocal stars Ewa Podles, Roberto Alagna, Renee Fleming, Galina Gorchakova and Dmitri Hvorostovsky.

Orbelian's frequent collaborations with Hvorostovsky include the spectacular "Songs of the War Years" program recorded on the Delos album "Where Are You, My Brothers?" and featuring songs from the World War II era. In January 2006 the "War Years" program toured New York's Lincoln Center, Washington's Kennedy Center, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Toronto and London.

The May 2005 "War Years" concert at Moscow's Kremlin Palace was attended by 80 Presidents and Heads of State from all over the world, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. A "Hero Cities" tour of Russia followed, culminating in St. Petersburg, where both Orbelian and Hvorostovsky were awarded the President's Konstantinov Medal. In May, 2004 the "War Years" concert in Moscow's Red Square was attended by an audience of 10,000, including President Putin, and telecast live throughout Russia and to 37 countries worldwide. Orbelian and Hvorostovsky performed the "War Years" program in 2004 for survivors of the Siege of Leningrad; and in 2003 for 6,000 Muscovites at the Kremlin Palace in Moscow, telecast by Russian Television to over 90 million viewers.

Constantine Orbelian and the Moscow Chamber Orchestra have won worldwide acclaim, not only for their stellar recordings and electrifying live performances, but also for their international ambassadorship. From their 1995 performance at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations in San Francisco, to their 2004 performance at the U.S. State Department commemorating 70 years of diplomatic relations between Washington and Moscow, Orbelian and the MCO continue to use their artistic eminence in the cause of international goodwill. They also participate in cultural enrichment programs for young people, both in Russia and the U.S.

Born in San Francisco to Russian and Armenian emigre parents, Constantine Orbelian made his debut as a pianist with the San Francisco Symphony at the age of 11. After graduating from Juilliard in New York, he embarked on a career as a piano virtuoso that included appearances with major symphony orchestras throughout the U.S., U.K., Europe, and Russia. His recording of the Khachaturian piano concerto won "Best Concerto Recording of the Year" award in the United Kingdom.

Orbelian is Founder and Music Director of the annual Palaces of St. Petersburg International Music Festival, and of Moscow's unique concert series, "Musical Treasures at the Museums of the Kremlin." Professor of Conducting at the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow,



Orbelian is also in charge of the Music Program for the Stanford University Overseas Campus in Moscow. In 2001 he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award given to immigrants, or children of immigrants, who have made outstanding contributions to the United States.

The "dynamic **Moscow Chamber Orchestra**" (*New York Times*) is one of the world's great ensembles. First called "the greatest chamber orchestra in the world" by Dmitri Shostakovich, the legendary Moscow Chamber Orchestra will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2006. The Orchestra's present Music Director, brilliant American pianist/ conductor Constantine Orbelian, has brought the MCO into a new era of international activity and acclaim since his appointment in 1991. For his remarkable achievements with the MCO, Orbelian was awarded the title "Honored Artist of Russia" by President Putin in 2004.

From its 1995 performance at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations in San Francisco, to its 2004 performance at the U.S. State Department commemorating 70 years of diplomatic relations between Washington and Moscow, the MCO brings its celebrated artistry to a wide range of international audiences. Called "one of the crown jewels of Russia," the Moscow Chamber Orchestra tours internationally in the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Finland, Sweden, Korea, Japan, South Africa, South America, Canada and the United States. Maestro Orbelian and the MCO now perform more than 120 concerts per year, including one or more annual Carnegie Hall appearances since 1998, and a sold-out subscription series in the Great Hall of Moscow's famed Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Under Orbelian's leadership the Orchestra was accorded the honor of "Academic" in its official Russian title (The State Academic Chamber Orchestra of Russia).

The Moscow Chamber Orchestra's acclaimed series of recordings with Maestro Orbelian on the Delos label numbers 21 recent releases, with more currently in production. Both in its stellar recordings and electrifying live performances, the Orchestra attracts universal excitement. "A wonderful ensemble," wrote *BBC Magazine*. "They truly perform as a single, luminous, singing voice," exclaimed *Sensible Sound*. Copley News Service calls the MCO "peerless among orchestras of its kind playing today." As London's *The Daily Telegraph* put it, "The musicians channel all of their emotion into the music and give performances of such passion and musicality ... producing music making of both subtlety and verve."

The Moscow Chamber Orchestra was created in 1956 by renowned conductor and violist Rudolph Barshai, and has long been considered a Russian national treasure. Always a magnet for the most talented and brilliant musicians in Moscow, the MCO has been an inspiration to important Russian composers such as Dmitri Shostakovich, who entrusted the first performance of his 14th Symphony to the Orchestra. The MCO's 50th Anniversary season will feature music written or arranged for the Orchestra, in addition to music long associated with the MCO's illustrious history.



Photo by Richard Kalina

For further information, see: www.federicomondelci.com

Producer: *Tatiana Vinnitskaya for SVIP Production, Ltd.*

Engineer: *Oleg Ivanov*

Assistant Engineers: *Andrey Maygkov, Igor Soloviev*

Editing: *Dimitri Misailov*

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On-stage microphone preamplifiers: *Millenia HV-8*

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Additional Pyramix engineer: *Andrey Maygkov*

Surround mix engineered by Tatiana Vinnitskaya, Oleg Ivanov

Stereo Mastering @ SVIP Studios by Oleg Ivanov

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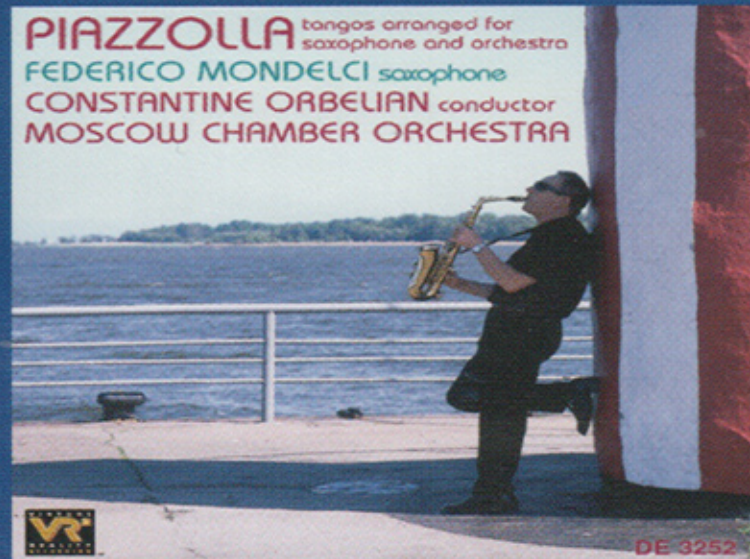
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with MONDELICI and three stellar Italian colleagues



PIAZZOLLA TANGOS • DE 3252
with CONSTANTINE ORBELIAN conducting the MOSCOW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

FANFARE — “Federico Mondelci’s work is outstanding in its subtlety, beauty of tone production, and idiomatic ease. One quickly becomes aware not merely of an instrument purporting to be a human voice but of all emotions that voice conveys.” — *William Zagorski*

THE NEW YORK TIMES — (CD of the Week) “Mondelci brings a rich, jazzy appeal to Piazzolla’s hauntingly beautiful melodies; he seems to have a real feel for the music’s power and gutsiness, as well as its gentle tenderness.”

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