

A N N E   A K I K O   M E Y E R S

*Shining Night*



# Shining Night... for Anne

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

*arr. Poxon*

1. **La Folia\*** . . . . . 8'32

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*arr. Campbell - adapted Poxon*

2. **Air on G\*** . . . . . 5'26

Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)

3. **Cantabile** . . . . . 3'39

Manuel Ponce (1882-1948)

*arr. Heifetz - adapted Poxon*

4. **Estrellita\* 'Little Star'** . . . . . 3'28

Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959)

5. **Aria from Bachianas Brasileiras No.5** . . 5'12

Duke Ellington (1899-1974)

*arr. DeRosa*

6. **In My Solitude\*** . . . . . 3'12

Jason Vieaux, guitar  
1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7~10, 11, 12

Fabio Bidini, piano  
4, 13, 14

Astor Pantaleón Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Histoire du Tango

*arr. Varelas*

7. **Bordel 1900** . . . . . 3'54

8. **Café 1930** . . . . . 7'29

9. **Night-club 1960** . . . . . 5'50

10. **Concert d'aujourd'hui** . . . . . 2'53

Hugo Peretti (1916-1986),

Luigi Creatore (1921-2015),

George David Weiss (1921-2010)

*arr. Poxon*

11. **Can't Help Falling in Love\*** . . . . . 3'13

Leo Brouwer (1939-)

12. **Laude al Árbol Gigante\***

'Laude to the Giant Sequoia Tree' (2020) . . 4'33

Morten Lauridsen (1943-)

13. **Dirait-On\*** . . . . . 4'55

14. **Sure On This Shining Night\*** . . . . . 4'56

For Anne\*  
1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14



**Anne Akiko Meyers** is one of the world's leading violinists and has enraptured audiences for decades. She has collaborated with many of today's most important orchestras, conductors, and composers, and is one of the leading proponents of new music. Anne has made 40 recordings which are staples of classical music radio stations and streaming platforms.

Last summer 2021, Anne premiered *Fandango* by Arturo Márquez, with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl and performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto with new cadenzas written for her by John Corigliano at the Brevard Music Festival. This fall 2022, Anne will premiere Michael Daugherty's *Blue Electra* with Gianandrea Noseda and the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.

Anne performs on the Ex-Vieuxtemps Guarneri del Gesù, dated 1741, considered by many to be the finest sounding violin.

Visit [www.anneakikomeyers.com](http://www.anneakikomeyers.com) for more.

**Fabio Bidini** is one of today's most important pianists and pedagogues. He is in high demand in recital, and as a chamber musician, and is a frequent guest of the most prominent orchestras around the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, New World Symphony, Dallas Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra, among many others.

Bidini graduated magna cum laude from the Cecilia Conservatory in Rome (one of the youngest ever) and studied composition at the Florence Conservatory. His sensational performances at the Busoni and at the Van Cliburn International Piano competitions helped launch his international career.

Fabio Bidini holds the Carol Grigor Piano Chair at the Colburn School and is Artist-in-Residence at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Köln.

Mr. Bidini's discography includes 15 acclaimed CDs and he is a Steinway artist.

**Jason Vieaux** is described by NPR as "perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation". After 25-plus years of international appearances at major festivals and concert series, and as soloist with over 100 orchestras, Vieaux is one of the world's leading guitarists. His Grammy-winning solo album *Play* was noted as "part of the revitalized interest in classical guitar."

Vieaux recorded *Four Paths of Light*, dedicated to him by Pat Metheny, for his 2021 album, *Road To The Sun*. Jason's passion for new music has also fostered premieres from Jeff Beal, Vivian Fung, Pierre Jalbert, Jonathan Leshnoff, and many more. Vieaux holds faculty positions at Curtis Institute of Music and Cleveland Institute of Music. He plays a guitar by Gernot Wagner made in Frankfurt in 2013.



It all started when I asked Morten Lauridsen if he had written any duos, and led to these arrangements, *Sure on This Shining Night* and *Dirait-On*. Shining Night is based on a poem by James Agee, and describes a man going on a walk and thinking back over his life.

That inspired this collection of pieces that metaphorically begins in the morning and explores the vast musical history through Baroque, Romantic, Popular, and current genres.

The common themes throughout the music reflect on one's relationship with nature, love, and poetry.

And how in dark and challenging times, kindness profoundly affects our souls and opens infinite possibilities when living our lives.

This is dedicated to all the duos in the universe, including my Jason. ✧

As so many great artistic collaborations do, this album began with a question:

Anne Akiko Meyers asked eminent composer, Morten Lauridsen if he had written any duos which include the violin. Though the answer was no, the question inspired Lauridsen to make arrangements for Meyers of two of his most popular choral works, *Sure on This Shining Night* and *Dirait-On*.

From that starting point, comes an album filled with music of light and hope. ✨

The dance known as the *folia* originated in Portugal and was extremely popular as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It's a simple dance which invites creativity and variation. More than 150 composers incorporated the *folia* into their music, including Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and J.S. Bach, but none have done so more famously than Arcangelo Corelli. Anne commissioned Andy Poxon to make this new arrangement that she and Jason Vieaux have performed on tour.

J.S. Bach's famous *Air* from the Orchestral Suite No. 3 and Paganini's delicate *Cantabile* showcase the ability of Anne Akiko Meyers and Jason Vieux to make the violin and the guitar sing. (The Italian musical term "cantabile" literally means "in a singing manner" or "singable.")

Manuel Ponce was a composer equally at home in the worlds of traditional concert music and the folk music of his native Mexico. In 1912, he wrote *Estrellita* (Little Star) which would become one of Mexico's most popular folk songs. *Estrellita* tells the story of a woman serenading a little star, saying she will die without the love of her beloved and asking the star to come down and tell her if he loves her – even just a little bit. Ponce wrote the music and the text. The chorus can be translated as follows:

*"Little star from the distant sky  
That you look at my pain  
that you know my suffering  
Come down and tell me if you love me a little  
Because I cannot live without your love ..."* ★

From a little star in the heavens over Mexico to an ode to the moon above Brazil. Inspired both by the music of his hero, J. S. Bach, and by the poetry of fellow Brazilian, Ruth Valladares Corrêa, composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, beautifully captures the tension between light and darkness as illuminated by the moon at night in the Aria from *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5.

The most famous version of Duke Ellington's standard (*In My Solitude*) is probably one of Billie Holiday's multiple versions she recorded in the 1940s and 50s. The lyrics are full of melancholy and despair, yet the music manages to be tenderly optimistic, suggesting perhaps that hope can be present even if we can't articulate it. Ellington says he wrote the song in the span of about 20 minutes when he and his band showed up for a recording session with three songs and were told they needed four.

*Histoire du Tango* is composer Astor Piazzolla literally charting the history of the tango from the bordellos and dance halls of Argentina to the concert halls of Europe and the United States. Piazzolla was the catalyst for this evolution even though it wasn't his idea at first. That credit goes to his teacher, Nadia Boulanger, who encouraged Piazzolla to find his authentic musical voice, rather than mimic what he heard from European composers.

*"And I didn't want to tell her that I was a bandoneon player..."*

*Finally, I confessed and she asked me to play some bars of a tango of my own. She suddenly opened her eyes, took my hand and told me: "You idiot, that's Piazzolla!" And I took all the music I composed, ten years of my life, and sent it to hell in two seconds..." ✧*

The “King of Rock and Roll,” Elvis Presley, often gets credit for the song, *Can’t Help Falling in Love*, but the tune has its roots in classical music. The trio of songwriters Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore, and George David Weiss actually wrote the song, and they were inspired by a popular French love song, *Plaisir d’amour*, composed in 1784 by Jean-Paul-Égide Martini. This adaptation by Andy Poxon eschews commercialism in favor of musical intimacy and tenderness.

Among the new pieces of music Anne commissioned for this album is a beautiful and haunting ode to the giant sequoia trees of California composed by the eminent Cuban guitarist and composer Leo Brouwer. *Laude al Arbol Gigante* captures the quiet majesty of these unique and ancient monuments. *Dirait-on* comes from Lauridsen’s cycle *Les Chansons des Roses*, with texts drawn from Rainer Maria Rilke’s 1926 collection of 27 poems, *Les Roses*. Lauridsen says his setting of Rilke’s *Dirait-on* “is composed as a tuneful chanson populaire, or folksong, that weaves together two melodic ideas.” This new version is one of two profoundly beautiful duets created for Meyers.

The most poignant moment of James Agee’s poem *Sure on This Shining Night* – which Morten Lauridsen based his work of the same name – comes in the middle:

*“The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.”*

Music based on poetry, nature and love through the ages ~ a musical embrace for all who need it. \*

Brian Lauritzen

**Anne Akiko Meyers, violin**

**Fabio Bidini, piano**

**Jason Vieaux, guitar**

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Producer . . . . . David Frost

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