



CRYSTAL TRIO

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Information

Crystal Trio is a unique group that performs various music using special glass instruments: Glass Harp, Verrophone and Glass Pan Flute sounding like bass. There are three professional musicians in the band: Igor Sklyarov, Vladimir Perminov and Vladimir Popras.

Igor Sklyarov tells:

"I got acquainted with the glass music already in 1998. One my colleague and friend demonstrated me a new musical instrument that looked like... a set of crystal glasses. "Can you play music with this set?" — I thought. But behind the outside simplicity mystery was hidden: having passed with my finger by the soft glass edge of one of the glasses I suddenly heard unusual — tender and singing — sound. It melted quickly leaving the feeling of magic. I touched the next glass: the sound was the same, but of a different tone. Glasses in the set were sorted out and tuned in such a way that together they compiled a crystal keyboard. You could play anything with it and every melody, modern or classical, acquired special "crystal" sounding.

I was charmed and firmly decided to collect such an instrument myself — as it was impossible to buy it in a musical salon in contrast to a grand piano or violin. Some weeks later, going through the city Gus Khrustalny I went to the glass market. Going from one counter to another I started to derive sounds of the sets there and could not stop already. Sellers from the farthest rows came to look at a crank playing the glasses. Everybody was bringing the packages: "Play mine, they are better!" When in two hours I was leaving the market I had four the most "sounding" sets of glasses in my hands. They became the basis of my first crystal harmonica.

To master the elements of playing even such an unusual instrument was not difficult for a professional musician. Much more time and efforts were necessary to reveal the character, soul of the instrument. I found out that the history of the glass instruments counted several centuries. Once "crystal" melodies pleased the hearings by the Royal Households and closed aristocratic salons. But then crystal harmonica was forgotten and only at the end of the previous century some performers — including us — applied to it again. And we were discovering the new and new planes of this unusual instrument independently and experimentally.

And first of all it seemed that usual glasses do not give all the fullness of sounding. But where should we take the special, “sounding” ones?.. Fortunately, in Germany we met a wonderful master who was like us fascinated by the glass music. His name is Sascha Reckert. It was he who became the author of our Glass Harp and later and the second unique instrument — Verrophone. It was funny to see the reaction of my close people when I told them that that “table set” cost like an automobile, about five thousand euros. However, the glasses cost this money: ideally tuned, they gave exactly that sound that we were dreaming of.

That we were on the right way was confirmed by the praising reaction of the listeners in Russia, Europe, and Japan. We were paid attention to and invited to concerts and festivals. And every performance, whether it was a corporative evening or a small concert in the streets of Venice, was an extra lesson for us. We show how the sounds of crystal reflected in the people’s eyes, how the atmosphere changes, and brought changes into the manner of performing, into the repertoire.

In 2005, the third instrument was added to the Glass Harp and Verrophone. It was the Glass Pan Flute that was created by our colleague Ilya Usatuk and later was completed by Vladimir Perminov. The flute gave pleasant bass sound. It made the sounding of the band deeper and richer.

Today we are the Crystal Trio. The Glass Flute part is performed by Vladimir Perminov, Vladimir Popras is a virtuoso of the Verrophone. I, Igor Sklyarov, play the Glass Harp. Our fingers know every inch of glass verges, but instruments never stop surprise us. The fairy-tails tell the truth: crystal has some magic inside. Perhaps, it’s the recollection of those times, when our universe was gathered of the smallest crystals and the very first melody sounded in the space void.”

Starting point of career to “Crystal Trio” became regular performances on an annual Venetian carnival. Since 2003, ensemble pleased venetians and tourists with the unusual music which so corresponded a magic atmosphere of a carnival.

“Recollecting Venice, we imagine the huge moon, hanging above city, reflection of fires in channels and your unearthly music”, - is written by admirers to “Crystal Trio”. The Venetian concerts have special value also because here, on Murano island, the glass factory making the well-known Venetian glass.

Due to the Venetian performances “Crystal Trio” has attracted attention of concert agencies and musical figures both from Europe and Russia. The following step in career of ensemble was unusual: musicians have taken part in record of an album of a legendary Russian rock group “Aquarium” “Songs of the Fisherman” (2003). They have plays “Crystal” solo for song “The Smoke above Yangtze”. Also “Crystal Harmony” has taken part in concert round in support of an album. Few months later have acted at an anniversary concert of the leader of “Aquarium” – Boris Grebenshchikov in the big concert hall of the Moscow Kremlin. Musicians accompanied the maestro on performance of songs “Golden City” and “Smoke above Yangtze”. Record of a concert was broadcast trough National Russian TV channels.

February 2004 was marked by participation in the authentic presence of a classical opera of M. Glinka “Ruslan and Lyudmila”. The main conductor of the Bolshoi theatre was Alexander Vedernikov. He invited musicians for the performance of the partita written Glinka especially for a glass harmonic. The opera

submitted on a stage Bolshoi, has caused the big interest: telling about it, the mass media by all means marked masterly game and singularity of "Crystal Trio" ensemble.

In April 2004 the ensemble has proved participation in the international Musical stock exchange (Switzerland, the city of Tuhn). The musical stock exchange is original "fair", during which hundred producers and impresarios from all world select ne, talented artists. A high professional level of "Crystal Trio" have estimated at once and on advantage: our musicians have concluded some contracts on caring out of concert rounds across Europe.

2004th became very important in career of ensemble. Thanks to popularity which was received by musicians, the opportunity to proceed from chamber performances to the philharmonic concerts has appeared. In this line participation in traditional summer concerts in Montfort castle on coast of Bodensee lake (Germany) is sign on July 9th "Crystal Trio" has presented on court of exacting European public a concert from two branches.

The success has surpassed the most courageous expectations.

The following step became concert tour across Japan which culmination was a series of concerts in a museum of the Venetian glass. Venetian Glass Museum near Tokyo judges of all refined. Japans have shown big interest to art of the Russian musicians.

In the beginning of 2006th "Crystal Trio" has presented at the international musical forum Midem 2006 (Cannes, France) a product of the musical creativity. For this moment in a portfolio of musicians there were some integral musical programs, work above which went all last year: "Ancient music", "Romantic music", and also "P.I. Tchaikovsky's Seasons". Musicians of "Crystal Trio" for the first time for all history of music have completely executed the given cycle on glass instruments

Art of Igor Sklyarov, Vladimir Perminov and Vladimir Popras became an example for many young Russian musicians Denis Klopov, Alexander Lemeshev, Ilya Usatjuk. These and many other executors due to success of "Crystal Trio" master today other sides of "glass" music.

"Crystal Trio" ensemble continues to improve the professional skill, at the same time expanding opportunities of participation of "glass" music in various areas of scenic art from concert activity before the dramatized statements.