



**SYDNEY
FESTIVAL
2015** 8–26 JAN

VARIATIONS ON BÉLA BARTÓK – 44 DUETS

IVA BITTOVÁ AND HANA KOTKOVÁ | CZECH REPUBLIC | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

IVA BITTOVÁ

Iva Bittová's intoxicating virtuosity has made her one of the leading figures of contemporary Czech avant-garde and the highest profile on the world stage; her ability to master violin, vocals and theatrics highlights her genius. Iva was born into a musical family in Northern Moravia, in what is now the Czech Republic. Her father played the string bass, cimbalom, guitar and trumpet in both classical and folk music contexts, influencing Iva's broad vision of music from the outset. She played violin from an early age and graduated in music and drama from the Brno Music Conservatory. At this time she worked as an actress in radio plays, television dramas, movies and theatre – including Brno's Divadlo Husa na Provázku (Goose on a String Theatre). In 1982, she began studying with Rudolf Štastrný, first violinist of the Moravian String Quartet. Since then, the violin has been the central emphasis of her musical life. After living for many years in the countryside outside Brno, Iva moved in 2007 to New York. She performs at the world's most prestigious venues, such as Carnegie Hall, New York; Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; Wigmore Hall, and Queen Elizabeth Hall at the Southbank Centre, London; and Rudolfinum – Dvořák's Auditorium, Prague. She has collaborated with Marc Ribot and John Zorn and has received many awards, including several from the Czech Musical Academy for Record of the Year and Singer of the Year.

HANA KOTKOVÁ

Hana Kotková is one of the Czech Republic's most revered violinists. Critics have labelled her a worthy proponent of the great Czech violin tradition. She grew up surrounded by the folk music of Moravia and Silesia, and has been performing in concerts from the age of 10. She studied at the conservatory in Ostrava and at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague with Josef Valach, Jiri Novak and Ivan Straus. She has continued her studies in Weimar, Germany, with Wolfgang Marschner and in Lausanne, Switzerland, with Pierre Amoyal. At the age of 18, she won the first prize at the Beethoven International Competition in Hradec, Czech Republic. As a soloist, she has played with leading European and American orchestras. She is a regular guest of the Ostrava Days Festival, where she has given many Czech premieres, among them *Violin and Orchestra* by Morton Feldman in 2003, *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* by György Ligeti in 2007 and *Gesungene Zeit* by Wolfgang Rihm in 2009. In 2005, she represented the Czech Republic at the World Expo in Aichi, Japan, as a soloist with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. In recent years, she performed Ligeti's Violin Concerto at Lincoln Center, New York and she made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2011.

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IVA BITTOVÁ
AND **HANA KOTKOVÁ**
CITY RECITAL HALL
20 JANUARY
75MINS NO INTERVAL

PROGRAM

IVA BITTOVÁ
Farewell
(Violin & voice – Iva Bittová)

BÉLA BARTÓK (1881–1945)
“Variations on Béla Bartók
Duets”
(Violin & voice – Iva Bittová
and Hana Kotková)

1. Teasing Song
2. Maypole Dance
3. Menuetto
4. Midsummer Night Song
5. Slovakian Song
6. Hungarian Song
7. Walachian Song
8. Slovakian Song 2
9. Play Song
10. Ruthenian Song
11. Cradle Song
12. Hay Song
13. Wedding Song
14. Pillow Dance
15. Soldier's Song
16. Burlesque
17. Hungarian March
18. Hungarian March 2
19. A Fairy Tale
20. A Rhythm Song
21. New Year's Greeting
22. Mosquito Dance
23. Bride's Farewell
24. Comic Song
25. Hungarian Song 2

LEOŠ JANÁČEK (1854–1928)
“Moravian Folk Poetry –
Variations on Leos Janaček”
(Violin & voice – Iva Bittová
and Hana Kotková)

1. Kvítí milodějné
2. Polajka
3. Jabůčko
4. Koničky milého

BÉLA BARTÓK
 (“Variations on Béla Bartók Duets”:
Violin & voice – Iva Bittová
and Hana Kotková)

26. Teasing Song
27. Limping Dance
28. Sorrow
29. New Year's Greeting 2
30. New Year's Greeting 3
31. New Year's Greeting 4
32. Dance from Máramaros
33. Harvest Song
34. Enumerating Song
35. Ruthenian Kolomejka
36. Bagpipes Variant of No. 36
37. Prelude and Canon
38. Rumanian Whirling Dance
39. Serbian Dance
40. Walachian Dance
41. Scherzo
42. Arabian Song
43. Pizzicato
44. Transylvanian Dance

BÉLA BARTÓK
Sonata for Solo Violin
(Violin – Hana Kotková)