

FOUR STRINGS AROUND THE WORLD



A program of global resonance with music inspired by the folklore of: Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East and Asia, South and North America.

Violinist Irina Muresanu has conceived **Four Strings Around the World** as a celebration of diverse musical cultures through the unifying voice of **the violin**, an omnipresent instrument in music all around the globe.

This project is the recipient of the prestigious **NewMusic USA** grant and the University of Maryland **Creative and Performing Arts Award**. The CD recording of “Four Strings Around the World” was released in 2018 by the Grammy-award winning label **Sono Luminus** to great critical acclaim.

Four Strings Around the World is conceived as a “recital-show-lecture” and is unlike any other solo violin recital. The audience will experience:

- ❖ Music of composers from 4 continents: Europe, Asia, South America and North America
- ❖ Works inspired by the folklore of: Romania, Ireland, Persia, India, China, Argentina, Gypsy, Native-American and Bluegrass music
- ❖ Two new works written specifically for this program by Indian composer Shirish Korde and Native American composer Jerod Imphichchachaaha' Tate
- ❖ Various styles of playing (classical, fiddle, Arabic, Asian, tango) enjoyable by a wide array of audiences
- ❖ Theatrical set-up with costume props (see photos)
- ❖ Multi-media component of short videos with music and images designed to inform and immerse the listener in the less familiar cultures
- ❖ Rich educational component, perfect for younger and outreach audiences





The virtuosic stamina and originality of this program was noted by critic Keith Powers:

“Four Strings Around the World not only extends the superbly talented Muresanu in new directions, but offers a glimpse into variations of violin technique and approach that would only be gleaned by attending concerts in various country fairs, Irish pubs, campfire gatherings and parlors. The only thing these works had in common was a kind of magical virtuosity the Muresanu regaled the audience with in a most facile manner..” Keith Powers, **Cape Cod Time**

Program Narrative:

Irina Muresanu’s musical journey starts in Europe with the fiddling buoyancy of pieces by Romanian, Russian and Irish composers (**Enescu, Shchedrin, Flynn**). The inimitable Viennese spirit embodied by Kreisler is also present in between the summits of the solo violin repertoire: **Paganini's Caprice no. 24** and the **Bach Ciaccona**, both of which are audiences’ favorites.

The sonic exploration continues through works of composers with musical roots in Persian (**Reza Vali**), Chinese (**Bright Sheng**) and Indian (**Shirish Korde**) cultures. Each of these pieces uses a different modal system,

creating a wide variety of sound effects. In this segment of the program, the violin embodies its ancestors and cousins, the Arab rebab and the Chinese erhu.

After a brief detour in South America (via an **Astor Piazzolla** *Tango Étude*), we return to the North American landscape as expressed in Native American and bluegrass music (**Jerod 'Impichchaaha'** Tate and **Mark O'Connor**).

The two of the pieces commissioned by Irina Muresanu specifically for "**Four Strings Around the World**" introduce wonderful new musical elements:

- "**Oshta**" by the Chickasaw Nation citizen composer **Jerod Impichchaaha'** Tate was inspired by a Native American hymn - "**Vák**" by Indian composer **Shirish Korde**, which is designed on the structure of the Lalit Raga.

These commissions were made possible through a "*Creative and Performing Arts Award*" Irina Muresanu received from the University of Maryland.

Irina Muresanu will continue her endeavors to perform this program around the world, as well as commission new pieces and discover more repertoire for solo violin that evokes the spirit and ethos of various nations.



FOUR STRINGS AROUND THE WORLD REPERTOIRE

Music from Western and Eastern Europe:

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|---|---------------------------------|
| George Enescu (1881- 1955)
<i>(Romania)</i> | - Airs in Romanian Folk Style |
| Rodion Shchedrin (b. 1932)
<i>(Russia)</i> | - Gypsy Melody |
| Dave Flynn (b. 1977)
<i>(Ireland)</i> | - Tar Éis an Caoineadh' |
| Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840)
<i>(Italy)</i> | - Caprice No. 24 |
| Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)
<i>(Austria)</i> | - Recitativo and Scherzo, Op. 6 |
| J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>(Germany)</i> | - Ciaccona in D minor |

Music from the Middle East and Asia, South and North America:

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| Reza Vali (b. 1952)
<i>(Iran)</i> | - Calligraphy no. 5 |
| Shirish Korde (b. 1945)
<i>(India)</i> | - Vák (with electronic drone) |
| Bright Sheng (b. 1955)
<i>(China)</i> | - The Stream Flows |
| Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
<i>(Argentina)</i> | - Tango Étude No. 3 |
| Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate (b. 1968)
<i>(Chickasaw Nation citizen)</i> | - Oshta (Four) |
| Mark O'Connor (b. 1961)
<i>(United States)</i> | - The Cricket Dance |