



FIVE SEASONS

SonCe 

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The project's foundation is a series of ancient ritual songs plucked from various Ukrainian folk repertoires for different occasions throughout the year. Although its base lies in well-established tradition, the direction that the group ultimately pursues with these melodies is anything but conventional and is likely to surprise and delight even the most seasoned of listeners.



Powerhouse vocalist Maryana Golovchenko anchors the ensemble with her assertive yet candid delivery while her collaborators, cellist Pau Sola Masafrets, and Cengiz Arslanpay (who employs modular synthesizers and wind instruments such as the ney, kaval and duduk) paint a rich and detailed sonic environment around her. All three members of the unit are versatile musicians whose practices are nourished by immersion in multiple musical worlds. This is audible in SonCe's unique interplay which combines the spontaneity and textural orientation of free improvisation, electronic music's sense of mood and colour, and a delicate linear sensibility that extends from contemporary European jazz.



OUR MUSIC

As much as Golovchenko's grounding in Ukrainian idioms situates her as group's ambassador for tradition, over the course of Five Seasons, she demonstrates a staggering range and intense sonic curiosity. Arslanpay's winds and electronics provide an almost cinematic scope that seems to extend well beyond the confines of a trio without ever sacrificing the intimacy and clarity of their tight-knit personnel. He doesn't shy away from deploying blatantly synthetic sounds, yet also approaches his modular rig from an instrumental perspective, maintaining a tactile sensibility at all times. Masafrets' expansive vocabulary on the cello integrates a wide variety of different playing techniques making him the surprising chameleon of the group. The vast array of timbres he employs allows him to assimilate into Arslanpay's atmospheric textures while having the ornamental capacity to shadow the melismatic contours of Golovchenko's singing. Offering agile musicianship, a vast dynamic range, and a broad sound palette that encompasses abstraction to visceral lyricism, and the organic to the electronic, SonCe's music is arrestingly potent and thoroughly unpredictable.



THE TRIO

Trio SonCe was formed in November 2019, but its underlying concept was something that had been on Golovchenko's mind for some time. Having initially contacted Masafrets to explore her idea of fusing folk and experimental approaches, she also received an unrelated invitation to collaborate informally from Arslanpay the following day. After joining the latter to improvise, she quickly realized the potential that a trio with the two of them would hold and the three soon became a band.

Since the release of their first album "Five Seasons" in September 2021 they have been performing the project in the Netherlands at many festivals and music halls like Havikconcerten, Houtfestival, Gaudeamus festival, Eyefilm museum, or Le guess who.

A native of Ukraine, Golovchenko moved to the Netherlands in 2011 and established herself as an eclectic singer, curator and teacher, with a particular interest in intercultural collaboration.

Barcelona-born cellist Pau Sola Masafrets has cultivated a unique language on his instrument and worked with a number of key figures in jazz and improvised music. He shares Golovchenko's interest in cross-cultural expression and has delved into South Indian music as an extension of his own creative endeavours.

Cengiz Arslanpay has developed a deep knowledge in Ottoman music, using it in his contemporary compositions of new microtonal music together with his interest in sound design, sound synthesis, new instrument creations and the mastery of the Ney, Kaval and Duduk.



THE ALBUM



trio SonCe | Five Seasons Release: 17 September 2021

1. Winter | Christmas Magic
2. Spring | Triptych: Me – You – Us
3. Spring | Grey Geese
4. Summer | Green Festivities
5. Summer | Solstice
6. Summer | Mint and Lullaby
7. Autumn | Wedding
8. Winter | Kyiv

Maryana Golovchenko — vocals

Pau Sola Masafrets — cello

Cengiz Arslanpay — modular synthesizers and woodwinds

Recorded at `T Mosterdzaadje, Santpoort Noord

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