

# STAREWITCH

SILENT ANIMATED FILMS OF LADISLAS STAREWITCH WITH LIVE MUSIC ACCOMPANIMENT

**The Cameraman's Revenge** (Mest kinematografičeskogo operatora), Soviet Union, 1912, 12 minutes

**The Frogs Who Wanted a King aka Frogland** (Les grenouilles qui demandent un roi), France, 1922, 8 minutes

**The Town Rat and the Country Rat** (Le rat de ville et le rat des champs), France, 1926, 13 minutes

**Voice of the Nightingale** (La voix du rossignol), France, 1923, 13 minutes

Music by **Peter Kus**

Live music accompaniment by "**Vlasov's Best Friend**":

**Klemen Bračko** - violin

**Anže Palka** - guitar

**Luka Jerončič** - accordion

**Peter Kus** - clarinet

**The project was produced with the help from the Narodni dom Maribor, Slovenia.**

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**Ladislav Starewitch** (1882-1965) was a Russian-French animator and director of Polish descent. He is regarded as a founder of puppet film and a pioneer of "stop-motion" animation technique. He developed animation film to a stage of technical perfection and enriched it with his vivid imagination. As a "modern Aesop" he filmed fables in which mostly animals appeared: frogs, rats, birds, different insects and toys were animated with such precision, that the spectators were asking themselves – how is it possible to train a dragonfly and a grasshopper (main figures in *The Cameraman's Revenge*, 1912) to dance together in front of the camera?! His animated films are incredibly imaginative, humorous, aesthetically accomplished and rich in their message. With their sweet bizarreness and surrealistic beauty they can impress spectators of any age.

The selection of films of Ladislav Starewitch is presented with new music accompaniment written by composer Peter Kus and performed live by the band "Vlasov's Best Friend". The new band is "related" to the "Pavel Vlasov Sextet", lead by Peter Kus at the end of the 90s. Sextet created music for Soviet silent films *Mother* (V. Pudovkin, USSR, 1926) and *Happiness* (A. Medvedkin, USSR, 1934). Peter Kus also co-composed new music for a silent American documentary film *Nanook of the North* (R. Flaherty, USA, 1922) and performed it live with "Trio Busby".

## »VLASOV'S BEST FRIEND«

**Peter Kus** (clarinet) is composer and puppet theatre director. He composed music for around twenty theatre, dance theatre and puppet theatre performances three silent full feature films and published two CDs. He was collaborating with different Slovenian theatre companies, independent productions, Slovenian Cinematheque and others. Lately he has devoted to creating performances in which he is researching different applications of music and sound in theatre. He is also performing as musician on woodwinds. He is a member of Slovenian folk-revival band *Tolovaj Mataj*. He also played in the groups *Pavel Vlasov Sextet*, *Kapela la Chateliere* and *Trio Busby*.

**Klemen Bračko** (violin) studied at the Conservatory of Music in Ljubljana with Professor Primož Novšak, following the studies with Professor Pavel Vernikov. He is also playing viola. He was teaching violin at the music school of St. Stanislaw's Institution in Ljubljana and now he is teaching at Walfdorf School in Ljubljana. He is a member of string quartet *Godalika*, which is not devoted only to classical repertoire, and he is performing Romanian, Hungarian and other ethnic music with the quartet *Akord*. He is also performing in other chamber ensembles (trio *Evivio*, *Oktisimo*) and he is researching unknown territories of music with musical society *JPD*. He is recording music for different groups, theatre, film, etc.

**Anže Palka** (kitara) is all-around musician and composer who is successfully combining teaching, composing and performing music of different genres. He has completed studies with Professor Andrej Grafenauer at the Conservatory of Music in Ljubljana and has received numerous awards. He is also writing

lyrics and songs and performs them with the band *Presneti vohuni*. With them, he published a CD "Give me money". He is the leader of the *New Flamenco Orchestra* for which he composes music and performs at numerous concerts in Slovenia. He is also a director and organizer of the Slovenian Flamenco Festival, SIFF.

**Luka Jerončič** (accordion) is classically trained musician who studied with Professor Irene Urbach at Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg – Augsburg, Germany. He also attended numerous master classes around Europe. He currently teaches accordion at the High Scholl for Music and Ballet in Ljubljana and at St. Stanislaw's Institution in Ljubljana.