

NEWS RELEASE

*“This exciting young ensemble is a step ahead, ready for anything...virtuosic and versatile!”
- LA Times*

The Soraya Celebrates Delirium Musicum’s Warner Classics release of “Seasons,” recorded at The Soraya

***Four Seasons Reimagined by Max Richter and Phillip Glass Performed Onstage!
Wed & Thu, May 10 & 11 at 8pm;
Limited Tickets are \$76 and available at www.TheSoraya.org.***

(Los Angeles, CA) May 5, 2023 —In a fitting finale to Étienne Gara’s two-years as The Soraya’s Artist-in-Residence, two back-to-back concerts will serve as the “album release party” for “Seasons.” The Warner Classics release is Gara’s and his innovative musical ensemble Delirium Musicum’s debut album and was recorded at The Soraya. This is a rare music opportunity to experience the works of two major contemporary composers — Philip Glass and Max Richter — written in response to Vivaldi’s beloved The Four Seasons.

“The Soraya is so fortunate to have had Étienne as our Artist-in-Residence for the past two years, starting with his pandemic-era video travelogue, [Musikaravan](#), and concluding with this *Four Seasons Reimagined* doubleheader,” said Thor Steingraber, The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director. “This is their fourth appearance on our stage since the pandemic – including the recent world premiere of [Treeology](#). Their concerts on May 10 and 11 also double as an “album release party,” as Warner Classics has just released “[Seasons](#)” the recording that Delirium Musicum made right here on The Soraya’s stage with our team and under the watchful eye and ear of Grammy Award-winning producer Fred Vogler.”

Performances are Wed & Thu, May 10 & 11 at 8pm; Tickets are \$76 and available at www.TheSoraya.org.

About “Seasons,” by Étienne Gara

This recording opens the floodgates to the uncompromisingly passionate style of my gang of players, Delirium Musicum: 21 musicians from nine countries scattered across three continents. I myself am intimately connected to three countries: France, Hungary, and the United States. On the road since my first romantic escapades, questions of identity, culture and of belonging in a world so rich in contrasts have always fascinated me.

Bringing this album into being has pushed me to connect with a dimension unconstrained by the many limitations of our own, where ticking clocks count down the time we have left. The sonic experience we are sharing with you here transports us to a realm of the imagination, of intergalactic journeys and human (as well as robotic) destinies, of passion and challenges, of introspection – and above all, a realm bearing the undaunted imprint of humanity.

In a world where climate change is at the very center of our attention, these eight deliciously disordered seasons unfold according to an utterly peculiar sense of time. They cast an artistic blur over our perception of things we have always seen as given and immutable: the seasons with their familiar weather patterns, our perception of time and space, and Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. Max Richter's composition grabs us by the tips of our bows and flings us beyond Vivaldi's trajectory. This is a voyage of discovery to new solar systems, their planets and UFOs glimpsed from the portholes of our musical spaceship. To behold such wonders, visions, and cosmic spirals, Delirium Musicum and I lift off with a collective sense of exhilaration in a dash to the stars and unknown universes.

This recording is something of a miracle, as it was really only by the skin of our teeth that we were able to make it amidst the recurring closures of concert halls in California imposed by the resurgence of COVID at the start of 2022. A single piece missing from the jigsaw of this project would have condemned it to silence, but the miracle of life managed to reassert itself, just as it does in Philip Glass's *American Four Seasons*. This fervent work, overflowing with feeling for our fragility as living beings, impels us to confront head-on the technological developments that, among other things, have brought about the conquest of space, electronic music, and rock. It is a work that, in its juxtaposition of obsessive repetition with an impassioned romanticism, embodies the battle between humans and the machine. Other of its ingredients include an exuberance worthy of baroque music, the implacable sound of the synth, rock-style bass guitar motifs played by cellos and double basses, as well as devilish electric guitar-style outbursts declaimed with palpable physicality by the solo violin, a rock 'n' roll warrior battling for the survival of the human race.

In this musical mission of ours, propelled by such mesmerizing pieces, I can imagine no finer fellow travelers than my intrepid players of Delirium Musicum. My aim in founding this group was to foster an artistic expression nourished by both diversity and the buzz of artists thirsting for uncompromising creativity and unbounded musical interpretation. The resulting creative and magnetic energy gives me this urge, this irresistible desire to unapologetically embrace life to the maximum and to share this so very infectious sense of musical exaltation with others.

Driven by the spirit of reaching beyond our comfort zone to explore new artistic landscapes, we have sought to create a special sound environment for this recording. We have, in select passages, delicately mixed electronic and acoustic music, which represent the duality between machine and human in our society. To take advantage of the properties of Dolby Atmos, we have choreographed the placement of players based on the musical idioms of these two scores.

This approach, with the subtle deployment of microphones, opens up a whole array of magical colors as well as a unique immersive experience for the listener, just as we ourselves perceive it on stage. These two pieces captured us body and soul. They inspired us to continue to strive towards an ecstatic world that pulsates with the passionate rhythms of the most beautiful pieces of music ever written.

Promotional videos of “Seasons” recorded at The Soraya include:

- [Philip Glass - The American Four Seasons - Mvt. 4 \(excerpt\)](#)
- [Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi, The Four Seasons: Winter 1](#)
- [Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi, The Four Seasons: Summer 3](#)
- [Philip Glass - The American Four Seasons - Mvt. 3 \(excerpt\)](#)

All the released promo videos of the album [can be found here](#).

For “Seasons” purchase and streaming options [visit the Warner Classics “Seasons” webpage](#).

For more information on obtaining review copies, or scheduling interviews with Étienne and Delirium Musicum, please contact:

Vicki Nguyen | Warners Classics | vicki@unison.media

Etienne Gara | Delirium Musicum | garaviolin@gmail.com

For tickets and interview requests relating to the May 10 and 11 concerts, please contact The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada](#), or PR Consultant [Gary Murphy](#).

[PRESS KIT IS AVAILABLE HERE.](#)

About Delirium Musicum

Under the leadership of Founder and Artistic Director Étienne Gara, **Delirium Musicum** represents the artistic excellence and leadership of the young generation of musicians in Los Angeles. The spontaneity of their musical approach, and the juxtaposition of music from all time periods, allows the musicians to bond and engage intimately with the audience to create meaningful human experiences.

Creative and unapologetic interpretation of the old masters paralleled by collaboration with contemporary composers brings to life a dialogue about new ways to explore music as it pertains to life. Delirium Musicum recently performed “[Treelogy: A Musical Portrait of California’s Redwood, Sequoia and Joshua Trees](#)” composed by Billy Childs, Steven Mackey and Gabriella Smith. This world premiere was commissioned and produced by The Soraya.

Musicians on the “Seasons” album include: Étienne Gara, Evan Hjort, JiEun Hwang, YuEun Gemma Kim, MinJi Kim, Mann-Wen Lo, Michael Siess, Misha Vayman, Dian Zhang, Alex Granger, Nao Kubota, SungJin Lee, Chieh-Fan Yiu, Ye Lin (Stella) Cho, Joo H. Lee, Javier Iglesias-Martin, Annie Jacobs-Perkins, Ryan Baird, Kathryn Schulmeister, Thomas Mellan, and Marcia Dickstein

About Étienne Gara, The Soraya’s Artist-in-Residence

Praised for the warm tone and expressiveness of his playing, French born violinist Étienne Gara has performed extensively worldwide in some of the most renowned venues. Internationally broadcast on TV and radio and winner of numerous awards his album “French Recital” (2014) was recorded on the 1714 Leonora Jackson Stradivarius.

Gara is Founding Artistic Director of Delirium Musicum, an award-winning self-conducted chamber orchestra established in 2018 and dedicated to providing impassioned and engaging musical performances influenced by the bustling artistic mosaic of L.A. In addition to his solo career that has seen him perform as a recitalist in Europe, Asia, and America, his solo performances with orchestra that have been seen in Europe and the US, he records for the film and TV industry, and performs as guest principal violin with many ensembles that have brought him to prestige L.A. venues including Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Nokia Theater, and many more.

Cultivating a boundary breaking curiosity, Gara was featured on Leonard Cohen's final album and previously founded the award-winning Sunset Club Trio, an ensemble joining the forces of the violin, the electric and the flamenco guitars in their own arrangements of the great classical repertoire. He also created "*Sketches of Miles*," a production that brings together the classical and the jazz worlds, commissioned by USC's Brain and Creativity Institute.

A graduate of the Mozarteum Salzburg, Indiana University, and the New England Conservatory, Gara also studied with Midori at the University of Southern California. Among many international festivals, he was invited to join star violinist Itzhak Perlman at his festival in NY, as well as residencies in Sarasota, FL and Israel. Gara has been Artist-in-Residence since 2019 at USC's Brain and Creativity Institute, led by neuroscientist and researcher Antonio Damasio, M.D., Ph.D.

About The Soraya

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, exceling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA's many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.

#