

CLARINO ENSEMBLE

*Picture yourself in a boat on a river
With tangerine trees and marmalade skies
Somebody calls you, you answer quite slowly
A girl with kaleidoscope eyes
(Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, Beatles)*

The clarinet, Emil Vişenescu tells me, changes its sound colour and mood as quickly as a chameleon. In the early 18th Century, Mr Johann Christoph Denner made the first attempts at this new instrument, aiming for something a lot more accurately sounding than anything that existed at the time; from the very beginning, the clarinet had a life of its own and proved to be a lot more versatile and subtler than even its creator had imagined. It easily switches from the high to the low register, it easily expresses the conflicting emotions and feelings that are so specific to human nature. The way you play it, the distance and body posture alter its pitch, deeply relating to and expressing the very nature of our lives. There is not one type of clarinet, but countless varieties, some of which can only be heard in Romania as part of Clarino, the ensemble set up by Emil Vişenescu to pass down his love for this family of instruments. The one who donated the rare instruments (the E-flat piccolo clarinet, the E-flat alto clarinet, the B-flat bass clarinet, the BB-flat contrabass clarinet) is Mrs Silvia Schwarzenbach, a Swiss clarinetist and professor to whom the ensemble owes its very existence.

Clarino is as chameleonic as the instrument itself: it can adjust to the requirements of the score and context, it comprises musicians aged between 19 and 38, it plays symphonic music, jazz, contemporary, even some Piazzolla. For some reason, girls are less into the clarinet... which is a pity. Music is still waiting for its most talented and elegant female clarinetists. Clarino Ensemble brings with it a sense of the unconventional, of dreaminess, of hope. It is dedicated to education and kept alive by the desire to make classical music one of the habits of life, rather than one of its exceptions. You can find them in festivals (George Enescu, International New Music Festival, Meridian and Chei) and, hopefully as soon as possible, on a record.

