

# SYMMETRIA PARVO CREATION

Just as human beings have pondered our origins over the last 50 millennia, our species continues to wonder and worry about our origins and the origin of what we think of as the universe. We want to know how it all began, whether through a magnanimous creative act of divine power or by spontaneous eruption from a single point into an ever-expanding universe bursting outward at many times the speed of light. Within the next few years, the James Webb telescope will force us to examine our theories all over again and perhaps come up with an entirely new explanation.

Our friend Russell Ward generously underwrote six new commissions for Finnish violinist Pekka Kuusisto and for Joonas Ahonen on piano. The works explore wide-ranging ideas about the beginning of things: the moment of creation as envisioned by our composers from different perspectives. Yarlung executive producers **Diane and Craig Martin** and I chose three of these works to include on this first vinyl pressing for Pekka and Joonas.

**Clarice Assad**, whose stepmother Angela Olinto teaches quantum physics at the University of Chicago, opens our album with *Symmetries*. Clarice's work expresses her vision of the earliest fractions of moments after the "Big Bang" in six through-composed movements, *Spin, Inertia, Energy, Space, Time* and *Momentum*. As when listening to this music by all the great composers Pekka and Joonas recorded on this album, one does not need to know anything about science or even the inspiration behind these works to enjoy this music. Clarice's work proves this instantly upon hearing. (Incidentally, Clarice was nominated for three GRAMMY® Awards this past year, including one for Yarlung's *Confessions* with soprano Laura Strickling.) Clarice is on a roll!

**Yuko Mabuchi's** *Evolution of the One* began as an expression of a Yoruba creation myth from West Africa, but quickly grew to take inspiration from ancient and more recent Native American traditions as well. *Evolution* investigates six periods since emergence from the singularity beginning with the origin of stars and galaxies, followed by the accumulation of matter into the earth and oceans and dry land. Then life develops out of the oceans, and eventually comes the age of dinosaurs and finally the arrival of human beings. The last two sections focus on the emergence of human civilizations and finally the age of science, the Internet, and space travel. What a romp! Pekka and Joonas could not stop grinning while playing this work, especially during their improvisatory sections. Yarlung fans know Yuko well from her first two Yarlung albums *Yuko Mabuchi Trio* and *Yuko Mabuchi plays Miles Davis*.

Our friend **Ricky Kej** wrote *Arambhah* (or "The Beginning") taking inspiration from Vedic creation stories from Ricky's native India that predate Hinduism as we know it today. I love Ricky's deceptively sweet theme and the arrangements, almost cinematic in color and scope, that develop from the kernel of his composition. One can envision Brahma and the egg-shaped universe and four Vedas emerging throughout Ricky's piece. The *Srimada Bhagavatam* describes the order of things, beginning with time itself, then matter, then sense-related powers (of which sound is the first), through the eventual emergence of human beings and demigods.

**Pekka Kuusisto, violin**  
**Joonas Ahonen, piano**



photo: Felix Broede

photo: Julia Wesely

**Clarice Assad**  
*SYMMETRIES*

**Yuko Mabuchi**  
*EVOLUTION OF THE ONE*

**Ricky Kej**  
*ARAMBHAH*



Multiple GRAMMY-winning Ricky Kej also serves with UNESCO and as a United Nations ambassador for climate. Ricky thanks **Manoj George, Lonnie Park** and **Don Hart** for their additional arrangement input on the Arambhah score.

Thank you to all the composers on the full recording, **Hannah Kendall, Yuko Mabuchi, Clarice Assad, Missy Mazzoli, Cecilia Damström, Adam Knight Gilbert, Harrison Birtwhistle, Mehmet Sanlikol** and Ricky Kej for your creations that indeed do justice to the origin of the universe itself. Thank you Joonas and Pekka for realizing this music so magnificently.

Shortly after Russell and I dreamed up this project to celebrate the origin of things with violin and piano, Yarlung reached out to Pekka Kuusisto in the hopes he might be intrigued by these composers and our concept. Happily, Pekka said yes during our first phone call. He suggested we reach out to Joonas Ahonen, Pekka's friend and frequent concert collaborator, the technically virtuosic pianist living in Vienna. Pekka prized Joonas' innate musicality and wanted his extraordinary keyboard skills to ensure we could create the entire album without edits. Joonas accepted with enthusiasm and he and Pekka were indeed the perfect choices.

Contemporary music fans will know Joonas Ahonen through his many recordings on the wonderful BIS and Ondine labels, or have heard his many live piano concerto performances with orchestras around the world, but he also specializes in Romantic and Classical repertoire. Please visit [joonasaahonen.com](http://joonasaahonen.com)

Pekka Kuusisto performs not only as a violin soloist with the major orchestras on the planet, but he also conducts regularly, and like Joonas, has released superb recordings with Ondine, BIS and Pentatone. Pekka plays the 1709 "Scotta" Stradivarius, generously loaned by a patron through Tarisio. Pekka used Westminster, Larsen and Dominant Pro strings for our recording. Please visit [harrisonparrott.com/artists/pekka-kuusisto](http://harrisonparrott.com/artists/pekka-kuusisto)

Fellow recording engineer and equipment designer Arian Jansen and I used SonoruS Holographic Imaging technology in the analog domain to refine the stereo image, Yarlung's SonoruS ATR12 to record analog tape and the Merging Technologies HAPI to record 256fs DSD in stereo and surround sound. We used our friend Ted Ancona's AKG C24 microphone previously owned by Frank Sinatra, and vacuum tube microphone amplification by Yarlung executive producer and designer Elliot Midwood. We recorded August 5 & 6, 2022 in Samueli Theater at Seagerstrom Center for the Arts. Our hearty thanks to executive producers Diane and Craig Martin for underwriting this 45RPM pressing.

This album pays homage not only to Pekka and to Joonas, but also to Allen Taylor, president of the Los Angeles and Orange County Audio Society (LAOCAS) in the organization's 30th year. Many of Yarlung's most fervent fans belong to our society, support our musicians and attend Yarlung's live concert recording sessions. As society president, Allen follows in the great footsteps of Mike Wechsberg and Bob Levi. These three remain an audio triumvirate in Southern California. Many thanks to Pekka and Joonas for giving us such a great excuse to celebrate LAOCAS' anniversary.

—Bob Attiyeh, producer

**Diane & Craig Martin: Executive Producers**

RECORDING ENGINEERS: BOB ATTIYEH AND ARIAN JANSEN  
MASTERING ENGINEERS: STEVE HOFFMAN, ARIAN JANSEN, BOB ATTIYEH  
VINYL MASTERING: BERNIE GRUNDMAN

YARLUNG MICROPHONE PREAMPLIFICATION: ELLIOT MIDWOOD  
AKG C24 MICROPHONE: ANCONA AUDIO  
STEINWAY TECHNICIAN: KATHY SMITH

COOPER BATES PHOTOGRAPHY  
GRAPHIC LAYOUT: MIKEDSIGN

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Breaking the Sound Barrier  
45 RPM

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