



Irina Kulikova

guitar

La Forêt ~ Drie Rivieren

Music by Mark Van Overmeire



Irina Kulikova

Widely acclaimed for the rare beauty of her tone and her enchanting presence on stage, Irina Kulikova has established herself as one of today's leading guitarists. Soundboard Magazine wrote: 'Some of the most sheerly beautiful playing I have ever heard.' And Luz Leskowitz, director of the Salzburger Schlosskonzerte in Austria, that accompanied her in concerts for royal and aristocratic families in Europe: 'Wherever she performs, she plays herself into the hearts of her audience.'

Irina Kulikova tours far afield, with appearances at leading festivals in Europe, North America and Asia and in concert halls such as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Palau de la Musica in Valencia, the Musashino Hall in Tokyo and the Oriental Arts Center in Shanghai. In the USA, she performed for major festivals and societies including Austin, Miami, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles.

The daughter of a Russian cello pedagogue, Irina Kulikova combines an effortless virtuosity with a profound sensitivity when she is phrasing the voices of great composers like Bach, Chopin, Debussy, Barrios and Piazzolla. 'Few can tell us something so special as she does' (Carlo Marchione).

Irina Kulikova received over 30 awards for her artistry, including 1st prizes at the highly prestigious competitions of Michele Pittaluga in Italy, Guitarra Alhambra in Spain, Forum Gitarre Wien in Austria and Iserlohn in Germany. She resides in The Hague (The Netherlands), Los Angeles (USA) and Salzburg (Austria). An ambassador of pure and heartfelt performing, she inspires guitar students in master classes all over the world with her personal motto: It's about the touch.

Suite for Classical Guitar

La Forêt (*The Forest*)

Mark Van Overmeire

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Sous les arbres
<i>(Under the trees)</i> | 4:25 |
| 2. Le cri et bruit des animaux
<i>(The calls and sounds of animals)</i> | 3:10 |
| 3. Courant de cascade
<i>(Waterfall stream)</i> | 5:47 |
| 4. Le son du vent et des feuilles
<i>(The sound of wind and leaves)</i> | 2:33 |
| 5. Les oiseaux chantent tôt le matin
<i>(Birds sing early in the morning)</i> | 2:32 |
| 6. Les belles couleurs de l'automne
<i>(The beautiful colors of autumn)</i> | 3:51 |

Suite for Classical Guitar

Drie Rivieren (*Three Rivers*)

Mark Van Overmeire

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 7. Kronkelend door de jungle
<i>(Winding through the jungle)</i> | 6:31 |
| 8. Langs de Vallei der Koningen
<i>(Passing by the Valley of the Kings)</i> | 8:49 |
| 9. Doorheen de lichtstad
<i>(Through the city of light)</i> | 3:02 |

Irina Kulikova: guitar
www.irinakulikova.com

Mark Van Overmeire: composer
www.markvanovermeire.com





It is my great pleasure to introduce to you the world premiere recording of 2 suites for classical guitar, "La Forêt" (The Forest) and "Drie Rivieren" (Three Rivers), interpreted on this recording by the wonderful Irina Kulikova.

The common theme of the 2 suites is nature, the inspiration both nostalgic, conjuring up experiences of the past; and onward looking, with many questions lingering in my mind about the challenges we face to protect nature in the coming years.

"La Forêt" (The Forest) takes me back to childhood memories. In the neighborhood where I lived as a young child, there were some woods. I must have been around 10 years old. One day when strolling by myself in the woods I discovered a tree cabin high up a tree. I could not resist and climbed my way up to the tree cabin. It was magical. I sat down and had an amazing view and felt that the world belonged to me. That memory and the way I felt that day has stayed with me.

The six movements of "La Forêt" (The Forest) take you on an outing in the great outdoors, a beautiful forest with all its mysteries and secrets for you to discover at your own leisure. Under the trees, you hear the calls and sounds of animals; the sound of wind and leaves keep you company while you follow a picturesque stream and take in the forest in all its beauty.

"Drie Rivieren" (Three Rivers) is an homage to three ancient and iconic rivers that have witnessed life since the beginning of time.

The suite starts with "Kronkelend door de jungle" (Winding through the jungle) which is an ode to the Amazon river (Brazil). A river boat winds slowly through the rainforest. Colorful birds fill the sky singing beautiful melodies. The sun is setting.

This is followed by a more royal experience with "Langs de Vallei der Koningen" (Passing by the Valley of the Kings). Here we are traveling back in time on The Nile (Egypt) where we are witnessing, from some distance, a ceremony of the pharaohs, the coronation of the "gold king" Tutankhamun perhaps.

We end our journey in Paris (France) on the Seine. The lights have just come on in the city; we see the Eiffel Tower in the distance; music reaches our ears from the many cafe's and we enjoy a romantic evening out with our loved one. It's a night that we will cherish forever.

Mark Van Overmeire composer
February 2021



CREDITS

“La Forêt” recorded by Norbert Kraft on December 11, 2019
at the Fellowship Community Church, Englewood, Florida, USA

“Drie Rivieren” recorded by Patrick Lemmens on October 9, 2020
at Galaxy Studios, Mol, Belgium

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Photo Irina Kulikova by Yana Feldman

Photos at Galaxy Studios by Wouter Fellendans.

CD Package and Booklet Design by Mark Van Overmeire

Irina Kulikova plays a 2019 Simon Marty spruce guitar on “La Forêt”
and a 2007 Simon Marty cedar guitar on “Drie Rivieren”
Irina uses Savarez strings

From Irina:

To Tony and Irmgard Leswell, who during my study years gave me a warm home
in the beautiful Alps of Austria

Session production, mixing, and editing by Norbert Kraft

Executive Producer: Mark Van Overmeire

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