

"One is no more present either in the past or in the future than one is present in the present, [just] dipping into it..."

- Béla Hamvas, Trees

Evan Parker said his roots were "in his record player," and all lovers of music and art know exactly what he meant: we are formed and defined by what we choose to love, not simply by the accident of where we are born or who our immediate family is. Fortunately for Szilárd Mezei, he was born in Vojvodina, a place with musical roots he wanted to connect to. In his music, the accident of where he was born becomes no accident at all: the Hungarian folk music of this region holds an attraction for him that is pre-conscious and instinctual but, equally, also rational and learned. Desired and chosen.

Loving this music and being born inside it doubles his passion and understanding for it.

Mezei formed the Túl A Tiszán Innen Ensemble in order to work with and reimagine themes from Hungarian folks songs from his native Vojvodina, in what is now northern Serbia. The name of the band is a play on words meaning both "From this side of the river Tisza" and "Beyond the river Tisza." Here and beyond. This poetic construction accurately represents Mezei's relationship to the material he has composed and arranged on this double CD: homage is paid, the future is envisioned, the present is respected.

The Túl A Tiszán Innen Ensemble is a hendectet (an eleven piece band) featuring stalwart Mezei collaborators Bogdan Rankovic, Branislav Aksin, Ervin Malina, István Csík and a bevy of more recent additions to his groups. The thing is: they all get it. This is their music, and by listening we make it our music. The future resonates differently than the past, like a socio-cultural doppler effect. The melodies may or may not already be in your blood, but putting the music in your ears allows passion to alter memory.

Élő népzenének is nevezhetnénk a válogatást, amely változatos hangzást és tartalmat nyújt a hallgatóságnak. Örvendetes kitűnő zenészektől, más zenekari megfogalmazásban, izgalmas improvizációkkal átszőve felfedezni népdalaink helyi, vajdasági változatait. Közös kiindulási pontunk a Mezei Szilárd Túl a Tiszán Innen zenekarral az egyszólamú, egyszerű szerkezetű, vokális, általában négysoros dalaink népszerűsítése, amelybe ez a formáció új színt hozott. Köszönet érte.

Juhász Gyula, népzenész, a VMMI népzenei munkatársa

This selection could be called living folk music, as it offers a variety of sonority and contents to audiences. It is a joy to discover the local, Vojvodina versions of our folk songs in the performances of such exceptional musicians and in such novel arrangements interwoven with exciting improvisational sequences. Our common point of departure with Szilárd Mezei's Túl a Tiszán Innen orchestra is the popularization of unisonous, simple-structured, vocal, mainly four-line long folk songs, into which this formation has brought a new flavor. We are thankful for that.

Gyula Juhász, folk musician, folk music associate of the VMMI (Hungarian Cultural Institute of Vojvodina)

## SZILÁRD MEZEI TÚL A TISZÁN INNEN ENSEMBLE Nem füstől a zentaji gyár kéménye

CD1	The Lat
1. Nem füstöl a zentaji gyár kéménye / There's no smoke coming from the	
chimney of Zenta's factory (BA III/37, Zenta)	08:07
2. Esküvőröl jövet / Returning from wedding (BA III/51, Kevi)	13:20
3. Nem zörög a levél, ha a szél nem fújja / The leaves don't rattle if the wind	
doesn't blow (There is no smoke without fire) (BA III/44, Zenta)	14:47
4. Széles a Duna / Wide is the Danube (BA III/11, Gombos)	08:34
5. Juhászlegény a pusztába / Shepherd lad in the pusta (BA II/194, Csóka)	11:14
6. Udvaromat egy nagy árok hasítsa / My yard's been divided by a great	
trench (BA I/142, Hertelendyfalva)	08:51
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CD 2	
1. Nem idevaló születésű vagyok én / I wasn't born around here (BA I/128, Zenta)	20:01
2. Hervad az a buza kit a kasza elvág / Wheat wilts if cut by a scythe	
(BA I/82, Zenta)	08:44
3. Ma menyasszony, holnap asszony / Bride today, woman tomorrow	
(BA III/66, Hertelendyfalva)	08:41
4. Esteledik, alkonyodik / Eveningfall, nightfall (BA II/181, Völgyes)	08:31
5. Túl a Tiszán zöld erdőbe születtem / I was born in a green forest	
over the Tisza (BA II/148, Hertelendyfalva)	05:31
6. Udvaromba arany válú / A golden trough in my yard	
0.14.70	44

All themes are Hungarian folk songs from Vojvodina.

Compositions and arrangements by Szilárd Mezei (SOKOJ) • www.szilardmezei.net