

Gemini Duo

CLASSICAL ACCORDION DUO



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About Gemini Duo

Gemini Duo begins with a simple question:
how far can two accordions go?

Gemini Duo is the twin-sister accordion duo of **Wanchen Zhao and Wanxu Zhao**. Originally from Shenzhen, China, they have been based in Copenhagen since 2019. They trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Music with Geir Draugsvoll, regarded as one of the most important and innovative figures in the accordion world, completing their Bachelor's, Master's and Advanced Postgraduate Soloist studies in chamber music.

The duo has built an international profile through concerts, recordings and collaborations with contemporary composers. **Their work centres on the classical accordion as a modern concert instrument, with a particular interest in bringing large-scale orchestral repertoire into the sound world of two accordions.** Their repertoire includes their own approaches to works by composers such as Stravinsky, Holst, Grieg and Borodin, alongside contemporary and newly commissioned music.

Signed to the French label Evidence Classics, Gemini Duo released their debut album “Morning Echoes” in 2026, bringing together orchestral transcriptions, contemporary repertoire and music connected to their Chinese background.

**Five international competitions,
five first prizes – *all in the chamber music
category.***

Gemini Duo has earned recognition far beyond the accordion world with their competition successes.

2022 47th PIF Italy Castelfidardo International

Accordion Competition **awarded the highest score**

2023 46th Pula International Accordion Competition

awarded the highest score

2021 Berlin Art Rising Star Award

(all instruments)

2023 Manhattan International Music Competition (all

instruments)

2024 Vienna International Music Competition

(all instruments)



ARTISTIC VISION & REPERTOIRE

Gemini Duo's artistic focus lies in the classical accordion and its **orchestral potential**. Through transcriptions of works by composers such as Stravinsky, Holst, Grieg and Borodin, they explore how two accordions can carry the scale, colour and dramatic energy of orchestral music.

Performing from memory is central to their approach. It allows greater freedom on stage, closer communication between the two players and a more direct connection with the audience.

Alongside their existing repertoire, Gemini Duo is continually expanding its orchestral transcriptions, bringing large-scale symphonic works into the distinctive sound world of two accordions. This ongoing exploration has become a defining part of their artistic identity and their approach to the accordion duo as an orchestral medium.

ORCHESTRAL TRANSCRIPTIONS

for accordion duo

Igor Stravinsky

Petrushka 36'

Gustav Holst

The Planets

Mars · Venus · Jupiter 26'

Edvard Grieg

Peer Gynt Suite

Op.46&Op.55 28'

Alexander Borodin

Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor 13'

NEW MUSIC & PREMIERES

Emil Johansson

Movements and Slapping Madness 6'

Carlos Alberto Durán Zárate

BiLoc 6'

Christos Farmakis

Jinx Suite 14'

Man-Ching Yu Donald

Through the Infinity Mirror 6'

Xiangming Niu

Impressions of Naadam 7.5'

Martin Lohse

Fast Track 7.5'

Stephen Morris

Shadow Selves 8'

CONTEMPORARY WORKS

Sofia Gubaidulina Hell und Dunkel 16'

Zbigniew Bargielski Gespräch mit einem Schatten 8'

Staffan Mossenmark Calm Water & Hot Air 8'

Media



Fast Track — Martin Lohse



Petrushka — Igor Stravinsky



Prince Igor — Alexander Borodin



Conversation in the Shadow — Zbigniew Bargielski



The Planets -- Jupiter — Gustav Holst



Double Concerto Hommage à Liège — Astor Piazzolla

ALBUM

MORNING ECHOES

In 2025, Gemini Duo signed with the French classical label Evidence Classics.

Their debut album, Morning Echoes, was released in 2026, bringing together orchestral transcriptions, contemporary repertoire and music connected to their Chinese roots.

Two tracks from the album were selected for Spotify's official New Classical playlist.



Label: Evidence Classics

“The charismatic Gemini Duo ... gave the orchestral version of Stravinsky's Petrushka a run for its money in terms of symphonic size, variety and color.”

Seen and Heard International, 2024

“Known for their seamless interplay, expressive depth and refined elegance, the duo left a lasting impression on the jury and the audience alike.”

PIF Castelfidardo

“Gemini Duo brings a new dimension to the chamber music genre.”

“...they combine virtuosic precision with an extraordinary level of communication—something only twins can share...”

Accordions Worldwide, on Morning Echoes

Music video

Edvard Grieg — Morning Mood

Alexander Borodin — Polovtsian Dances

Listen to the album

PRESS & CONTACT

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