

# Mp3 Ljova - Vjola: World On Four Strings



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Ljova -- a composer and arranger who frequently collaborates with Yo-Yo Ma, the Kronos Quartet and others -- takes his viola for a unique journey fusing the world's musical traditions. 15 MP3 Songs FOLK: Traditional Folk, WORLD: Eastern European Details: viola folk music latin gypsy assymetrical rhythms indie crossover classical minimalist strings European cinematic... VIOLAS ON PARADE! "This self-released debut recording from 27-year-old Russian-born Lev Zhurbin (aka Ljova), one of New York's fastest-rising composers and instrumentalists, is something special... Ljova continually delights" -- Anastasia Tsioulcas, BILLBOARD (critic's choice review) "Best of June 2006 New Releases" -- John Schaefer, New Sounds, WNYC Radio "The borders separating classical music, folk, jazz and pop grow blurrier every day, rubbed out by intrepid explorers from all points along the musical spectrum. Russian-born violist-composer Lev "Ljova" Zhurbin stakes an especially choice claim on uncharted territory with his solo debut. Employing skills honed alongside Yo-Yo Ma, the Kronos Quartet and Osvaldo Golijov, Ljova mixes rustic dances and evocative soundscapes, all crafted from little more than the gorgeously grainy purr of his fiddle." -- Steve Smith, Time Out New York This debut release of maverick composer, arranger, and violist Ljova (Lev Zhurbin) draws on a multitude of cross-cultural influences, and is performed almost exclusively on multi-tracked viola. In addition to a busy career as a performer and film composer, Ljova is a frequent collaborator with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project, the Kronos Quartet, Osvaldo Golijov, as well as many other independent artists. From blues to Bjork, to Latin and Gypsy dances, to a nostalgic Russian street-waltz (featuring Michael Ward-Bergeman on accordion), Ljova pushes the boundaries on his instrument. Using inventive improvisation and arranging techniques, his compositions dazzle with intricate textures, odd rhythms and lilting melodies, creating music that is both fresh and timeless. "This album is a travelogue of sorts, though most journeys didnt

take me much further than the Island of Manhattan. It is a dedication to the ever-changing neighborhoods of New York City, its diverse cultures, and of course its illustrious musicians, from whom I draw much of my inspiration. Everything you hear on this album (with the exception of Michael's accordion on "Garmoshka", and the synth bass on "Breadbasket Blues") was recorded by myself on a viola. Each instrumental part was recorded separately, one after the other, and most arrangements were improvised from rough sketches. The choice of using viola as a multi-track instrument was as much artistic as it was a matter of convenience the ensemble was cheap, hungry for a new sound, and very much of a similar mind. I hope you'll enjoy the music and the journey!" ---Ljova LJOVA (Lev Zhurbin) was born in 1978 in Moscow, Russia, and moved to New York with his parents, composer Alexander Zhurbin and poet Irena Ginzburg, in 1990. He divides his time between performing as a violist in diverse groups ranging from string quartets to jazz combos and gypsy bands, studying and arranging world music, and composing original music for film, TV, and the concert stage. This is Ljova's debut album of original music.

Previously, he has recorded with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble on Silk Road Journeys: Beyond the Horizon, and with The Andalucian Dogs on Ayre, featuring the music of Berio and Golijov. He has performed with guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli and tap dancer Savion Glover. As an arranger, Ljova has completed dozens of arrangements for Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, the Kronos Quartet, Bond, and others. Resulting from these collaborations are arrangements of musics from Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Russia, Tanzania, as well as gypsy music from Romania and France. As a composer, Ljova is the author of more than 70 compositions for classical, jazz, and folk ensembles, as well as scores to two features and over a dozen shorts. In 2005, Ljova was one of six fellows participating in the Sundance Institute's Film Composers Lab. Ljova is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he was a pupil of Samuel Rhodes. "...[Ljova] is an extraordinarily talented and versatile musician, who has an incredible understanding of the intricacies of the imaginative mind." ---Yo-Yo Ma, cellist "I am simply in awe of Lev's talents. He is one of the outstanding exponents of a new generation of musicians that I consider, in a good sense, mutants. Equally at home in a chamber group or symphony orchestra playing the canon of the literature or the most complex modernistic settings, or imaginatively improvising on folk melodies with musicians from around the world, Lev proves that an integration between seemingly different cultures is possible, inevitable, and fruitful. He and the other leaders of his generation are, in my view, the people that will ensure that music remains vital to the minds and hearts of a wide spectrum of

people. As a composer, arranger and violist, Lev reconnects with the tradition of composer-performer-improviser that was the norm in the past and is fortunately coming back. He does all his work at an extraordinary level." ---Osvaldo Golijov, composer

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