Global Expansion
Carlos Micháns is a genuine cosmopolitan. He was born in Argentina, has family ties in Great Britain, the Basque Country, and the United States, makes his home in the Netherlands, and travels around the world. Hardly dogmatic, he joins together all sorts of influences to form a very individual personal style of great expressive power. The Utrecht String Quartet expands to five and eight musicians to introduce this composer to listening audiences with his Oboe Quintet, Piano Quintet, and Divertimento for String Octet.

Cultural Transfer
Micháns is especially fascinated by Southern India. He has transferred folk songs, ragas, and temple songs of Dravidian culture into Western notation and obtained material for his “Dravidian Moods” from them. As is typical of him, the sources are not simply cited; he instead translates the atmosphere into an abstract composition based on the Western model. The work was composed for the oboist Pauline Oostenrijk and the Utrecht String Quartet.

Hybrid Form
The Divertimento No. 3 is also based on motifs from Southern India. It varies a Christian Tamil song in keeping with the Western tradition. What is interesting is that the song itself displays European influences. Missionaries and seafarers left their traces on this music – globalization hundreds of years ago!

Exploratory Mode
The Utrecht String Quartet has invited close friends to perform with it on its newest production. The oboist Pauline Oostenrijk, the pianist Severin von Eckardstein, and the Ruysdael Quartet enlarge the circle around the four enterprising Dutch musicians, who once again have made genuinely new discoveries. Of the greatest interest!

Alexander Glazunov
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