

IGUDESMAN & JOO



ONLY HANDS SMALL

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CLASH OF THE SOLOISTS

FOR VIOLIN VIRTUOSO VERSUS PIANO VIRTUOSO AND WRESTLING ORCHESTRA
written, composed, and conceived by Aleksey Igudesman & Hyung-ki Joo

We live in a world where millions of people will walk past a concert hall and only a fraction will step inside. Interestingly, thousands will gather at WrestleMania. Igudesman & Joo have finally found common ground between these two, seemingly opposite, spectator sports. Clementi had to contend with Mozart's ingenuity, Beethoven blew Steinbelt out of Vienna, and Handel sparred Scarlatti in a joust of fingers (ending in a draw where Handel took the honour for organ mastery—the instrument, not his liver—and Scarlatti reigned harpsichord supreme). Now, Igudesman & Joo prepare themselves to go head-to-head and put an end to the bull—for good.

In the right corner we have Korean/Japanese/Chinese piano prodigy Whay-Tsu Fast and in the left, Russian/American/Jewish/German/Spanish-speaking violin virtuoso Sergey Amadeus Showoff—but, in the feud as ancient as time itself to determine the superior instrument, who will emerge triumphant? Who will snatch victory and prevail as champion in this Clash of the Soloists? Who, with flying fingers and soaring melodies, will rise above as the greatest soloist of all time and claim eternal glory? Ladies and gentleman, now on the world's greatest stages, let's get ready to rumble!

In this savage duel between violin and piano, anything and everything goes—whether bribery or axes in the piano and even an evil maestro in disguise. Igudesman & Joo battle it out in their iconoclastic, spectacular, Szechuan-spicy style. They blaze through concertos with extraordinary dexterity and finesse that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. A performance makes for an unforgettable, laugh-until-soda-comes-out-of-your-nose performance that will leave listeners of all ages thirsting for more. Forget gladiators—this is blasphemy, this is madness, this is IGUDESMAN & JOO!

“Clash of the Soloists” was commissioned and given its world premiere by the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich with conductor, referee, and Maestro of Ceremonies, Joshua Weilerstein, for their 150th Anniversary Celebration Concert.