

From the Ground Up: The Chaconne

An artistic journey through space and time, rooted in the irresistible rhythms of the ground bass

Released on Signum Classics, Friday 7 June 2019

SIGCD574

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O/Modernt Soloists

Hugo Ticciati *violin*

Samuel West *reader*

- Violinist and Artistic Director Hugo Ticciati returns to disc with his ensemble O/Modernt – Swedish for ‘un/modern’ – combining old and new
- **From the Ground Up: The Chaconne** explores chaconnes from the sixteenth century through to the present day
- Bach’s Chaconne sits alongside Purcell, Pellegrini, Piccinini, contemporary compositions by Johannes Marmén and Dušan Bogdanović, overtone singing and reinventions of Purcell, combined with beat poetry inspired by Shakespeare
- In line with Hugo Ticciati’s passion for nature and conservation, O/Modernt will donate to charitable tree initiatives in India for each disc sold
- The album, recorded on Signum Classics, will be released on 7 June 2019 during the opening of Hugo’s Festival O/Modernt in Stockholm

Originating as a sexy South American dance, the chaconne crossed the Atlantic to sixteenth-century Spain, where it acquired a reputation as a dangerous pleasure. Constructed on repeating ground basses, the form’s sinuous flexibility articulated two facets of the modernist urge to self-expression: the boisterous delights of turning the world upside down and the sweet sadness of melancholy introspection.

From the Ground Up: The Chaconne explores the history of the chaconne in Spain and Italy, and its acceptance into high musical culture. In England it became a chief inspiration for Purcell, while in Germany it triggered the sublime achievement of Bach’s ‘Ciaccona’ from the Partita in D minor for Solo Violin. Also springing from this fertile soil are works by contemporary composers Johannes Marmén and Dušan Bogdanović, and three sets of improvisations – ‘Ground’, ‘Breath’, ‘Being’ – based on themes from Purcell. These include the elemental art of overtone singing, performed by Gareth Lubbe, who studied with the Tuvan people of Siberia. Returning to the chaconne’s Renaissance roots, readings from Shakespeare by actor Sam West inspire extempore reflections by beat poet Baba Israel.

In an aim to reduce environmental impact, the album will be produced as sustainably as possible. For every disc sold O/Modernt will donate to charitable tree initiatives in India, one of the most important forested areas in the world to protect. Forests sustain nature’s diversity, benefit our climate, and support human well-being. Additionally, spellbinding photographs by artist Serinyà and wildlife photographer Jose Pesquero are included in the

booklet. The liner notes trace key motifs from Cervantes and Shakespeare through the album's diverse tracks, whilst Hugo Ticciati's introduction considers the importance of breathing as the ground of our being. The booklet also includes British Museum curator Irving Finkel's reflections on the trumpets of Tutankhamun, heard in the twentieth century after an interval of three and a half thousand years.

'Everything is alive; everything is interconnected.' (Cicero)

Release information:

Catalogue number: SIGCD574

Release date: 7 June 2019

Format: CD album, classical/ baroque/ post modern

Sam West *reader*

Hugo Ticciati & Johannes Marmén *violins*

Gareth Lubbe *viola & overtone singer*

Julian Arp *cello*

Jordi Carrasco Hjelm *double bass*

Alberto Mesirca, Christoph Sommer & Karl Nyhlin *guitar and theorbo*

Nora Thiele, Leandro Mancini-Olivos & Elsa Bradley *percussion*

Cecilia Knudtsen *viola da gamba*

Luciana Mancini *mezzosoprano*

Baba Israel *beat poet*

Henrik Måwe *piano*

Svante Henryson *electric bass*

Launch events:

14 May St Stephen Walbrook Church, London 6.30pm

16 May British Ambassador's Residence, Stockholm 6pm

3 June Norrgavel, Stockholm

14–19 June Festival O/Modernt, Stockholm

7 July Maulbronn Monastery, Baden-Württemberg

Information and launch events ticket requests:

Louise Hughes, O/Modernt Manager

louise@omodernt.com | +447886 196 450

Press and media enquiries:

Sara Kalic, Signum Records PR & Artist Liaison Manager

sara@signumrecords.com | +44208 9974000

Links:

O/Modernt website: www.omodernt.com

Signum website: www.signumrecords.com

Hugo Ticciati biography: www.omodernt.com/director

O/Modernt social media: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)