



presents

THE MYSTERY

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC BY TIM GARLAND

The Northern Sinfonia Orchestra

conducted by Clark Rundell

Tim Garland - saxophones, bass flute **Chick Corea - piano**

This seventy minute CD of orchestral music composed by Tim Garland features The Northern Sinfonia Orchestra with Garland and the legendary Chick Corea as soloists. *The Mystery* integrates new orchestral music with the contemporary jazz world in a way seldom achieved, the jazz and modern-classical elements being present in equal measure.

Tim Garland studied classical composition at London's Guildhall School of Music. Craving the spontaneity of jazz, the impatient twenty year-old turned to the saxophone and for many years kept his compositions to those of a small-group nature. He was not comfortable imitating the jazz heroes of America however, so he established *Lammas* - a Celtic Roots/Jazz cross-over band - quite an innovation at the time. *Lammas* made five CDs and ran for ten years, and helped to establish Garland's reputation as an innovative and striking performer. Garland was also head-hunted by Ronnie Scott, joining his band for a short time in the nineties.

Several recording projects followed, and in 1995 Garland's album *Enter The Fire* was released. For the first time Garland felt ready to acknowledge the influence of swing and the American mainstream, whilst continuing to hone his own characteristic compositions. This was the beginning of a surge forward in Garland's career, and a slow expansion back towards more through-composed and classically influenced music. Over the last ten years he has written prolifically for, and fronted bands of various sizes, including a trio with jazz virtuosos Geoff Keezer and Joe Locke (*Storms/Nocturnes*) and his nine-piece *Underground Orchestra*.

Developing both as a player and a highly individual composer, Garland has been able to integrate his jazz influences with the eclectic world around him. A series of short orchestral compositions led to a bigger break with the commissioning of a saxophone concerto for the BBC Concert Orchestra. This, together with his work with the award-winning trio *Acoustic Triangle*, helped to confirm Garland as a writer and a player with a highly integrated and innovative vision that remains sophisticated yet accessible.

Garland's piano concerto received its first performance in 2005 at The Sage in Gateshead, and an overture, specially commissioned by The London Symphony Orchestra, was performed to an ecstatic full-house audience at London's Barbican centre in February 2006. In May 2006 Garland's *Jubilate Deo* was performed by The Choir of Westminster Abbey with Acoustic Triangle. Tim completed a three year post as Composer-In-Residence at Newcastle University, in close alliance with the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra. Garland collected the *Radio 3 Jazz Innovations Award* at the 2006 BBC Jazz Awards for his CD *If The Sea Replied*. He also won the prestigious *Jazz Musician of the Year* prize at the 2006 Parliamentary Jazz Awards.

Seven years of international touring with Chick Corea, and four with Bill Bruford's quartet *Earthworks* have further established Garland as one of the most travelled saxophone soloists

the UK has produced, yet this recording feels to him like a return to earlier roots, where his own playing serves the compositions, rather than the other way round.

It is fitting that, after the abstractions of *Three For Thelonious*, there is a duet rendition of a Monk ballad in which Garland is joined by one of the world's best known advocates of Monk's music at the piano. Chick Corea's own classical precision is employed on the title track and in a free improvisation to introduce *Fantasy On Crystal Silence* to which Garland innovatively added a score for orchestra after the event. "The tradition of jazz is innovation." says Garland, "I'm being as honest as I know how to be when I seek the influence of jazz in the music I grew up with, the music of my culture. I was writing music before I was playing it, and it has taken twenty years to feel ready for this level of integration."

Tracks 1 and 2 - Who Is Father Time?

Commissioned for The Sakoba African Dance Company. The narrative of the dance shapes the music, giving it the feeling of a modern ballet score. A mysteriously masked figure (characterised by the bass flute) watches as animals and humans struggle with the mechanisation of the world.

Track 3 - Icelandic Lullaby

A traditional melody arranged for full orchestra.

Track 4 - The Mystery

A contemporary duet that blossoms into a full symphony orchestral transformation.

Track 5, 6 and 7 - Three for Thelonius - Abstractions on Trinkle Tinkle, Ruby My Dear and Evidence

These are orchestral works without soloists but with prominent parts for percussion and first trumpet. All three movements take the famous themes of jazz legend Thelonious Monk as their inspiration.

Track 8 - As The Boy Gathers His Dreams

Written firstly for big band and later adapted for Acoustic Triangle, the melody describes Garland's son Joseph sleeping.

Track 9- Fantasy On Crystal Silence

Garland's arrangement of Chick Corea's famous piece - here featuring an improvised piano introduction from Corea to which Garland has retrospectively added the orchestration.

Track 10 - Rosa Ballerina

A haunting melody inspired by Garland's then 4-year-old daughter and her wind-up toy ballerina, featuring the composer's sublime soprano saxophone artistry.

Track 11 - Romance For One

Here a beautiful young woman betrays an almost schizophrenic inner-self as she agonises over her insecure, changeable images of love and sexuality. This piece was also commissioned for Sakoba African Dance Company. In this concert version of the dance, her extrovert side eventually soars above the dilemma in new found harmony, represented by the saxophonist breaking into improvisation over a jubilant statement of the repeating melody.

Track 12 - Monk's Mood

Garland and Corea in an intimate duet.

"This music is very beautiful and atmospheric." Sir Richard Rodney Bennett

"Tim is an inspired composer and saxophonist. His creative imagination is full blown on this awesome recording *The Mystery*. He continues to carve new musical directions in the use of orchestra combined with his own sparkling playing." Chick Corea

Artists: THE NORTHERN SINFONIA with soloists TIM GARLAND & CHICK COREA
Guests: Asaf Sirkis (percussion/udu), Ben Elijah (African percussion), Noel Langley (lead trumpet)
Producer: Tim Garland
Executive Producer: Malcolm Creese
Recorded at Systems Two, New York - 15th January 2006 - engineer: Mike Marciano and The Sage, Gateshead - 7th March 2006 - engineer: Bob Whitney
Mixed by: Bob Whitney at Silk Recordings
Mastered by Andrew Tulloch at The Blue Room
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