

ANGIE LEMON PR Media Release for immediate use:

Challenging and changing perspectives with Paolo Russo's 'Imaginary Soundtrack'

"... Thank you, Paolo Russo, for your commitment and passionate love for the bandoneon you give us in all your deeds."

Néstor Marconi's preface of Paolo Russo's anthology of 'Bandoneon Solo Vol. II'.

Artist: Paolo Russo

Album: Imaginary Soundtrack

Release: 20th Sept 2019

Label: Odradek Records

Catalogue: ODRCD704

Genre: World music, instrumental, classical.

Instruments: Bandoneon, vibraphone, contrabass, recorders.

CD Booklet in English, Spanish, Italian.



Photo credit: Stefano Celiberti

Please consider for charts, airplay, reviews.

CD Booklet courtesy of Odradek Records:

https://issuu.com/odradek-records/docs/odrcd704_paolo_russo_-_imaginary_soundtrack

Private Listen: <https://soundcloud.com/odradek-records/sets/odrcd704-paolo-russo-imaginary-soundtrack/s-Quipk>

'Imaginary Soundtrack' is the new instrumental album from renowned Italian composer, bandoneon maestro and multi-instrumentalist, Paolo Russo. Journey with Paolo through this collection of 15 beautifully composed and carefully arranged pieces performed on vibraphone [David Hildebrandt], a family of recorders [Roberto Torto], contrabass [Thommy Andersson] and Paolo Russo on bandoneon. 'Imaginary Soundtrack' is an invitation from Paolo and friends for the listener to create their own narrative to accompany this vivid and suggestive soundtrack.

The album's opening track starts at 'Madrugada' or 'dawn' and from here the journey weaves through streets, hills, high peaks and 'La Foresta Dei Giganti' [The Forest of Giants] building the soundtrack with more complex pieces.

Along the way we meet interesting characters: the reflective 'La Fanciulla Dagli Occhi Sognanti' [The Girl with The Dreamy Eyes]; the playful and spirited 'Elegant Jester' that shows off the imperative roles that the bass and vibraphone play in the composition of the album. 'Imaginary Soundtrack' is inspired by vintage Italian film music from the 1950's. As Paolo says,

"So often in videos, films and commercials, music has become just an accompaniment. I just want to put the music first ... to make a statement for 'Imaginary Soundtrack' where the listener imagines what they choose, to let their imagination soar without pre-presented visuals... for listeners to build their own movie around the music, whatever that may be..."

Paolo's early fascination with travel, geography and maps inspired the album's pivotal track #11, 'Azimuthal Equidistant', a piece about challenging and changing perspectives. An azimuthal equidistant projection map views the world from the top of the north pole with all the land masses around the

centre – it shows there are different perspectives with which to view the world and that these perspectives at time should be challenged and changed says Paolo. ‘De La Meseta Al Océano’ [From the Plateau to the Ocean] is about how differently we see things from up high or down low. As Paolo says in his own words,

“Change is a constant in our lives as we see in nature, we are changing constantly, instead of fighting change we should embrace it. The more we are open to change, the less we suffer when changes strike, be they social, political or personal.”

While the album contains all original compositions by Paolo, the use of recurring melodies and characters creates warmth and familiarity on the album as in ‘The Elegant Jester’, ‘Freaky Dancing Demons’ and again in the album’s engaging crescendo ‘Atto Finale’ [Final Act], all the while showing great variety in tempo and musical production.

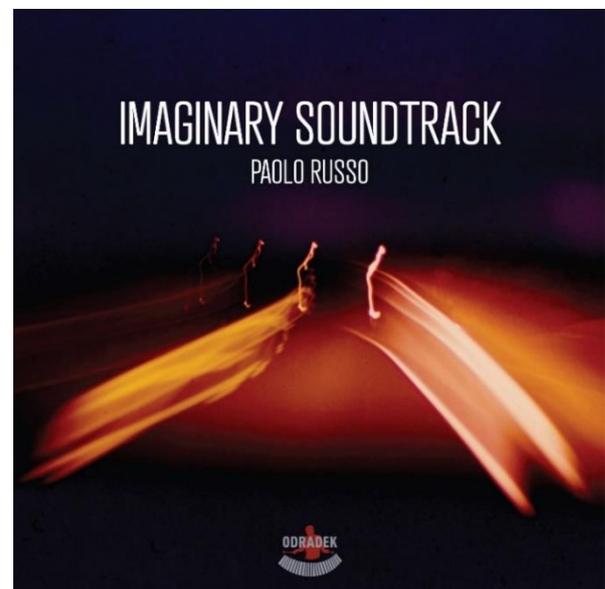
As bandoneon and tango are musical partners, so on ‘Kontra-Tango’ [Counter-Tango], Paolo stretches and struts the definitive plush bandoneon, an instrument originating from Argentina. While staying as a guest of composer Carmelo Saitta in Buenos Aires, Paolo visited a tango night club where he fell in love with the bandoneon and has been exploring its musical diversity ever since.

As in life, as on ‘Imaginary Soundtrack’ we also encounter some ‘Volapyk’ [Mumbo Jumbo] and magic as we enter the ‘La Foresta Dei Giganti’ [The Forest of Giants]. ‘Imaginary Soundtrack’ is Paolo’s fifteenth musical offering and releases through Odradek Records on September 20th 2019.

Track Listing for ‘Imaginary Soundtrack’ by Paolo Russo/Odradek Records ODRCD704:

Total Playing Time - 51’32

1. Madrugada - *Dawn* - 02’53
2. Transparent Walking - 04’16
3. The Elegant Jester - 02’18
4. La Fanciulla Dagli Occhi Sognanti -
The Girl with The Dreamy Eyes - 03’47
5. Kontra-Tango *Counter-Tango* - 05’45
6. Og Hvis Det Var Sandt? *And If It Was True?* - 05’36
7. Un’ Improvisa Rivelazione Notturna -
A Sudden Night Revelation - 03’53
8. De La Meseta Al Océano -
From the Plateau to the Ocean - 3’09
9. Volapyk - *Mumbo Jumbo* - 02’15
10. La Foresta Dei Giganti - *The Forest of Giants* - 02’05
11. Azimuthal Equidistant - 03’03
12. Despertandose - *Waking Up* - 02’49
13. Den Gamle Kilde - *The Ancient Well* - 03’02
14. Freaky Dancing Demons - 2’52
15. Atto Finale - *Final Act* - 03’49



Cover + album design: Tommaso Tuzj

Bio in brief: Paolo Russo:

Website: www.paolorusso.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/paolorussocom

Video: www.youtube.com/paolorussocom

Instagram: www.instagram.com/paolorussocom

Dreams from Paolo's bedroom window in his home town of Pescara, Italy, led him to believe that his musical journey would take him to new cities to learn and explore. As a young piano player and composer, Paolo travelled to Denmark, specifically Copenhagen, where he was destined to reside and study – eventually making the Scandinavian country his new and permanent domicile. This syncretic identity can be represented in the use of four languages to title the tracks in 'Imaginary Soundtrack': Spanish, Italian, Danish and English.

After completing his studies in the classical '*Conservatorio L. D'Annunzio*' in 1993, Paolo followed his heart and landed at the '*Rytmsk Musikkonservatorium*' deep in the heart of his beloved Copenhagen, where – attracted by the rich and exciting Danish jazz environment – he continued his studies which were completed only after an indulging five years. Paolo Russo's subsequent success as an international musician has seen him travel to all corners of the globe, playing and featuring on over 50 albums in which his skills and talent were envied from afar. Whilst lending his talents to others, Paolo managed to simultaneously produce fourteen personal albums of music, including specific dedications to the 'bandoneon': the smaller square member of the concertina family which Paolo proudly champions.

Having studied piano and bandoneon, Paolo chose the bandoneon as his favoured musical instrument to give the bandoneon a chance to stand centre stage, and shine it does. So, following the steps of the great maestros of the instrument, Paolo took it upon himself to dedicate many of his compositions to highlight the intricacies and complexities of the bandoneon, such as his albums: *Bandoneon Solo Vol. I – Jazz Standards*, *Bandoneon Solo Vol. II – Originals*, *Bandoneon Solo Vol. III – Songs from the Forest*.

Featured Artists on 'Imaginary Soundtrack':

Paolo Russo - bandoneon, composition

Roberto Torto - recorders

David Hildebrandt – vibraphone

Thommy Andersson – contrabass

Team Russo:

Artist Manager: Denise Thigpen: denise@thigpen.dk

Label enquiries: Andie Chantzi: andie@odradek-records.com

Media enquires: UK: Angie Lemon: angie@angielemonpr.com

Media enquiries: International: Sophie Darling: sophiedarlingpr@gmail.com

Press release + bio written by Sophie Darling and Angie Lemon PR in coordination with Odradek Records.