

DUO SERA
Encounters



HUNNIA RECORDS

DUO SERA

Anastasia Razvalyaeva

Harp

Erzsébet Selejő

Saxophone



ENCOUNTERS

This album, which captures more than a decade of Duo SeRa's artistic work, presents a unique segment of Hungarian contemporary music. Since its founding, the duo has been deeply committed to collaborating with Hungarian composers, premiering numerous works written specifically for them. The concept of the newly released album was inspired by their early concert series titled Encounters, where Renaissance songs and contemporary works were performed side by side, creating exciting dialogues between past and present.

During the concerts the short songs by John Dowland functioned as transitions – musical “neutral zones” that helped audiences engage more easily with the contemporary pieces. This principle has been preserved on the album as well: by placing the works side by side, the program offers contrasts in genre and mood, as well as reflections and multiple layers of interpretation. The composers featured on the album – Máté Balogh, Bálint Bolcsó, Barnabás Dukay, Márton Illés, Péter Tornyai, András Gábor Virágh, and Mátyás Wettl – are among the most prominent and acclaimed figures of Hungarian contemporary music. Their compositions, shaped by markedly different musical approaches, act as doors and windows through which listeners can enter distinct artistic universes.

The selection of works on this recording reflects not only the duo's artistic identity but also functions as a musical diary – an anthology of memories and experiences gathered from their performances across different countries and contexts. The aim of the album is to preserve these moments and to share them with those who are already familiar with Duo SeRa's work, as well as with new audiences.

In addition to the duo pieces, this album also includes two solo works: a hymn by Hildegard von Bingen, transcribed for saxophone, and a sound poem written for harp by Barnabás Dukay.

This album is not merely a recording, but a kind of artistic synthesis that builds a bridge between tradition and innovation. Its uniquely structured program conveys a deeply personal yet universally resonant musical message. The diversity of the works featured, the duo's mature interpretive style, and the thoughtfully curated structure together result in an album that faithfully represents the living and evolving reality of contemporary Hungarian music.

Erzsébet and Anastasia would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Dániel Dinyés for his invaluable musical production and uplifting spirit; to Sándor Árok for his exceptional sound engineering; to Róbert Zoltán Hunka and to the Nemzeti Kulturális Alap for the essential support which made the recording of this album possible; and last but by no means least, they wish to thank János Bali for his insightful guidance.

Duo Sera



RECORDING SETUP

Microphones

Harp: 2 x Neumann M149

Saxophone: 1 x Neumann M149

Room: 2 x DPA4006

AD/DA

Merging Hapi

DAW

Pyramix MassCore

Analog Mixing Console

Studer 962

EQ

GML 8200

Prism Sound Maselec MEA-2

Effect

Bricasti Design M7+ M10

Compressor / Limiter

Manley Variable MU

Prism Sound Maselec MPL2



TRACK LIST

01	Balogh Máté: <i>Kikaku & Basho</i> (2015)	05:10
02	John Dowland: <i>Flow My Tears</i>	03:45
03	Tornyai Péter: <i>Narcissus</i> (2015)	08:57
04	John Dowland: <i>Time Stands Still</i>	02:27
05	Illés Márton: <i>Én-kör II.</i> (2017)	07:42
06	Hildegard von Bingen: <i>Caritas abundat in omnia</i>	02:23
07	Dukay Barnabás: <i>Clouds, Mists, Fogs Under The Waxing Moonlight</i> (2024) <i>contemplative winds and shining calms</i> <i>sound poem</i> <i>for harp</i>	06:49
08	John Dowland: <i>If My Complaints Could Passions Move</i>	02:00
09	Bolcsó Bálint: <i>Intersection Moment</i> (2017)	04:19
10	John Dowland: <i>Now, Oh Now I Needs Must Part</i>	01:32
11	Virágh András Gabor: <i>Waves</i> (2014)	04:30
12	John Dowland: <i>Can She Excuse My Wrongs</i>	01:22
13	Wettl Mátyás: <i>My Favourite Instruments</i>	04:54
Total time:		55:42

Anastasia Razvalyaeva harp, Erzsébet Selejto saxophone except: Track 6 Erzsébet Selejto saxophone, Track 7 Anastasia Razvalyaeva harp, Track 9 Anastasia Razvalyaeva harp, Erzsébet Selejto saxophone, Bálint Bolcsó electronics





Recording at **ProVibe Park Studios, 20-22 June, 2025**

Music supervisor: **Dániel Dinnyés**

Balance and recording engineer: **Sándor Árok**

Mastering engineer: **Tom Caulfield**

Recorded audio format: **DSD256**

Photos: **Zsófi Raffay, Bánk Fenyves**

Producer: **Róbert Zoltán Hunka**

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