



West String Trio Alternate Realities

"Without imagination, the world would be a duller place".

- **Albert Einstein**

Vera van der Bie - violin, fx, vocals

Annie Tångberg - cello, fx, vocals

Rani Kumar - viola, fx, vocals

01. 01 Skogens Konge (05:05) - Annie Tångberg
02. Tiny Road Sharks (05:12) - Vera van der Bie
03. OPA (07:36) - Rani Kumar
04. Red Sun (05:12) - Vera van der Bie
05. Evolution 3.85.23 (04:32) - Vera van der Bie, Annie Tångberg, Rani Kumar
06. Press Pause (05:31) - Annie Tångberg
07. Parallax (05:30)* - Rani Kumar
08. [Insert Dream World Here] (05:30) - Vera van der Bie
09. Silence of the Apes (04:23) - Rani Kumar
10. Cogito Ergo Sum (03:49) - Annie Tångberg

* Spoken words by Tom Trapp

Total time: **56:08**

Catalog Number: SL-1062A

Original recording format **DXD - PCM 352kHz**

West Side Trio is a string trio 2.0

On *Alternate Realities*, West Side Trio defies musical categorization by adding an endless innovative stream of colors and nuances to the idiom.

Exploring all the possibilities of the instruments they signify that a string trio is also; wood, voice, cables, effect pedals, and amplifiers.

In short their own musical world. But what I find the most remarkable is that; while investigating all these different avenues, they create a world where the tune is the most important; it's never; "Look what a cool effect I've found" but always; "check how this sound enhances the mood of the music."

- Peter Bjørnild



"They are phenomenal players, specialists in groove music, their sense of rhythm and time is unparalleled and they are able to cover all genres"

- Bill Laurance -Snarky Puppy

"Chamber music from outer space"

- De Volkskrant

"Earthy music from another planet"

- Het Parool



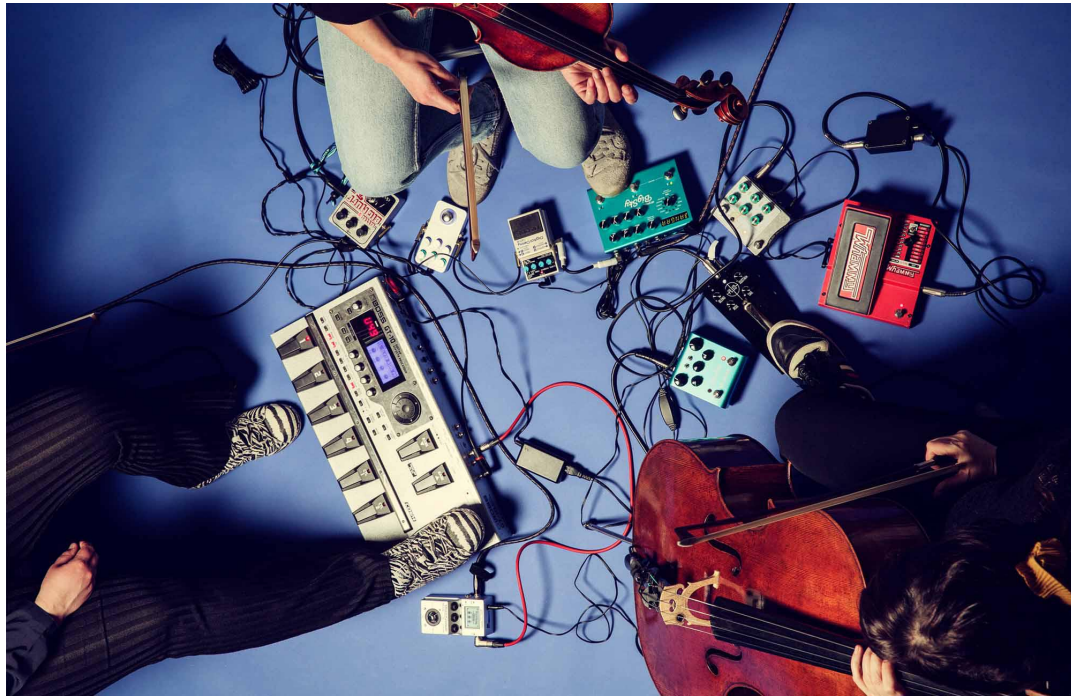
"With Rani joining West Side Trio during the pandemic, we were all very eager to write new material for our upcoming album 'Alternate Realities'. There was no definition of what a "reality" consists of, so we let our imaginations do their thing: a moose stubbornly hiding in the forest, flying family members, living on another planet, flat-Earth conspiracies, shark-car hybrids and more.

We wrote 'Evolution' together, sending scores back and forth and watching the piece evolve organically from the opening theme, which is based on the word 'evolution' in morse code.

An electric string trio playing with lots of effects whilst improvising and singing is a challenging thing to get a natural sound out of. We're very happy with the way everything turned out.

Thanks to Frans and Peter at Sound Liaison!"

- Vera de Bie



When creating the soundscape, we devoted significant time to achieving an ideal balance. We placed a Josephson C700S in the 'sweet spot' in MCO Studios' Studio 2 before incorporating spot microphones. Our goal was to create a sound field that felt intimate yet retained sufficient depth to evoke a visual representation of the instruments. The advantage of this approach is the ability to visualize the trio in front of you, arranged from left to right between the speakers, as opposed to the more prevalent (and radio-friendly) format where the instruments are piled on top of each other. In some ways, we are old-fashioned. We may have listened to too many old jazz recordings, but as Louis Armstrong once said; "The memory of things gone is important to a jazz musician. Things like old folks singing in the moonlight in the backyard on a hot night or something said long ago."

- Frans de Rond

Recording, mixing and mastering by Frans de Rond and West Side Trio.
Produced by Peter Bjørnild and West Side Trio.

Recorded at MCO, Studio 2, Hilversum, The Netherlands, on the 26th and 27th of March 2022.

Used equipment:

Microphones:

Main 'One Mic': Josephson C700S

Vera - DI (violin), Audix SCX25a (vocals), DI (fx)

Annie - Josephson C700A (cello), Audix SCX25a (vocals), DI (fx)

Rani - DPA 4011 (viola), Audix SCX25a (vocals), DI (fx)

Micpre's: Merging Horus

Microphone cables by AudioQuest

Speakers: TAD Compact Evolution

Poweramp: Moon 760A

Mixing headphones: Hifiman HE1000 / Sennheiser HD800S

All power cables and power conditioners by AudioQuest.

Network switch by SOTM.

Cover design by Sonja van Hamel

Photos by Eddo Hartmann