

BRUCE BRUBAKER GLASS PIANO

Infiné

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“There's a spareness that I love -- a pure, essential sound-making. It's not music that necessarily tells a story. It's more like the sound of being conscious.”

Fans may be familiar with the concept of the remix in the electronic music realm - where one artist reimagines a song in their vision based on the foundation set previously by the original artist - but the art of the remix has long existed in the classical world as well. New York City pianist Bruce Brubaker has dedicated his career to this concept, an artist who has not only mastered the art of replaying compositions, but also adding his own personality to these pieces, reimagining them in such a way that they assume a new and unique form, based on and developed from the original.

Bruce Brubaker's forte is understanding and reinterpreting the music of Philip Glass. He has cultivated an intense relationship with Glass' compositions, encouraged by American critic and record producer Tim Page who first introduced Brubaker to the music of Glass. Since that time, which has spanned over 20 years, Brubaker & Glass have met on many occasions to discuss the reworks, instilling a deep understanding for Brubaker of Glass' innermost intentions and idiosyncrasies.

As Brubaker states, *“Remix culture, post-production art is the art of now.*

Artists today are making pathways through what came before. More and more I see what I do in this way. I'm starting from notes written on paper by Philip. But music is a group activity, and a transaction. This music only exists as it does because it was written, then made into sound by me, and heard by listeners. The people hearing it complete the art.’

“The first time I played “Mad Rush” for him -- just as I was about to play the first notes -- he said, “Let’s see what you have to say in this piece.”

Enter the records of ‘Glass Piano’, which came about almost by chance as InFiné requested some remixes of a few select recordings of Brubaker's earlier works by Glass. During their discussion, it became clear that Brubaker felt inspired to record them once again after revisiting these compositions.

“Making a recording brings an intense musical scrutiny. In the process of recording you learn so much, it's almost always time to do it again. I've played some of these pieces many many times. Perhaps it's surprising how much the performances continue changing”

The recording was made in Poitiers, France in the new Theater and Auditorium of Poitiers (TAP). The venue sits closely to the site of InFiné's summer workshop. The microphones were purposefully placed close to the piano and so sounds can be heard during the recordings that are normally muted for an audience, the creaking of the chair for example.

What Brubaker creates during the recordings and when he plays the music of Glass, he is summoning the spirit of the original compositions and translating them into a new, unique form; a new language that communicates a similar feeling & mode but is represented in a brand new context.

“I'm not playing different notes than those in the written music. However, the exact rhythms and phrase organization, weighting of chords, use of the piano's sustaining pedal -- these elements all vary. The moment-by-moment process is not willful ideally. Of course, there's planning and practicing. But as the music is being made, I'm trying to listen as an outside listener, an observer. I respond to the sounds I'm hearing but I don't consciously make things happen.”

Glass Piano by Bruce Brubaker is presented in a beautiful double vinyl gatefold edition as well as a digipak CD. The vinyl edition also comes with two additional bonus tracks that aren't included on the CD or digital versions.

All the original solo pieces have their original names. The pieces that are arrangements from opera are a bit different. The piece we call “Evening Song” is sometimes referred to as “Satyagraha, Act 3, conclusion.”



About Bruce Brubaker:

Bruce Brubaker has performed Mozart with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philip Glass on the BBC and is a frequent performer at New York City's Le Poisson Rouge. He has recorded for ECM, Bedroom Community, and Arabesque, and his notable releases include the *Drones* album with Nico Muhly and *Piano Songs* with Meredith Monk and Ursula Oppens.

Brubaker trained at the Juilliard School, where he received the school's highest award, the Edward Steuermann Prize, upon graduation. At Juilliard, where he taught from 1995 to 2004, he has appeared in public conversations with Philip Glass, Milton Babbitt, and Meredith Monk. Brubaker has given master classes and forums at the Juilliard School, the Royal College of Music in London, Helsinki's Sibelius Academy, Columbia University, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and the École Normale in Paris. Brubaker's articles about music have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Piano Quarterly*, and *Chamber Music* magazine. Bruce also taught Francesco Tristano and they occasionally performed together in NYC. This fruitful relationship led to InFiné inviting Bruce to Poitiers in 2012 to the annual Workshop InFiné festival to record the album in the auditorium.

"Glass's famous arpeggios are, in Bruce's hands, either gossamer or strict, which is precisely how those structures are meant to behave. An arpeggio should be like a harmonic scaffolding a "broken" version of a chord that is somehow stronger than a solid version of the same. It can be a spider's web, a spun-sugar sculpture, or a steel infrastructure. Bruce teases out all interpretations, giving the music a thrilling and changing surface, all over its static and reassuring core." – Nico Mulhy (Composer)

LP	CD	DOWNLOAD/STREAM
A1 – Mad rush	1 – Mad rush	1 – Mad rush
A2 – Metamorphosis 1	2 – Metamorphosis 1	2 – Metamorphosis 1
B1 – Metamorphosis 2	3 – Metamorphosis 2	3 – Metamorphosis 2
B2 – Metamorphosis 3	4 – Metamorphosis 3	4 – Metamorphosis 4
B3 – Metamorphosis 4	5 – Metamorphosis 4	5 – Metamorphosis 5
C1 – Metamorphosis 5	6 – Metamorphosis 5	6 – Knee Play
C2 – Knee Play	7 – Knee Play	7 – Wichita
C3 - Opening	8 – Wichita	
D1 – Wichita		
D2 - Evening Song		

BRUCE BRUBAKER

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