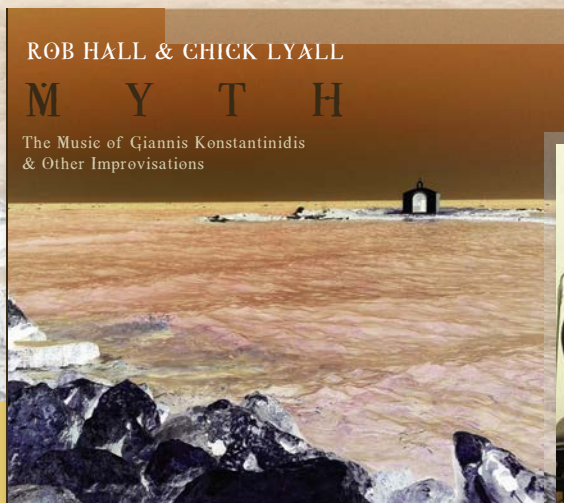


ROB HALL & CHICK LYALL

MYTH



Over a period of 10 years the Scottish duo of Rob Hall & Chick Lyall has developed a highly distinctive musical language and identity. Their music is informed by a very wide range of genres from Baroque chamber music to free jazz, contemporary classical and folk idioms, connecting with the broader European music tradition though often articulated with an American attitude. The central thread through all their work is the intense musical dialogue that they are capable of building between them. MYTH is the fifth release by the duo for the FMR label.

As with previous albums, MYTH explores a variety of approaches ranging from Jazz to 20th century classical composition and freely improvised interludes, the centrepiece of which is a suite of music written by the Greek composer and conductor Giannis Konstantinidis. Originally grouped as a set of 44 Miniatures for Piano, 12 are performed here with extended improvisations.

The Scottish based creative duo of Rob Hall & Chick Lyall has been developing its musical language and identity since around 2003. Their music is informed by a very wide range of genres from Baroque chamber music to free Jazz and folk idioms, connecting with the broader European music tradition though often articulated with an American attitude. The central thread through all their performance work is the intense musical dialogue that they are able to build between them.

As active members of the Scottish jazz scene the two had met previously playing as sidemen in other groups and in each others bands. Quickly discovering a mutual empathy for classical music as well as jazz, the duo began to build a touring schedule which included chamber concerts with Scottish cellist Robin Mason, and, more widely, performances of their own music in jazz venues, music clubs, festivals, arts centres and churches both in the UK and internationally.

An enquiring interest in composition has been a driving force and the duo particularly explores the ground between improvisation and composition. They can deliver pure improvisations that sound composed and equally their own compositions are interpreted and renewed through the use of improvisation. For both musicians the duo has become in recent times their central creative vehicle and a true collaboration.

The duo has released four CD recordings to date for the FMR label which have been met with widespread enthusiasm from the music press. Having laid out their broad musical canvas with *The Beaten Path* (2005), their second release *Rhyme or Reason* (2009), backed by the Scottish Arts Council (now Creative Scotland), followed suit very strongly, incorporating both fully improvised and fully composed material into the programme. Their 3rd recording *Blithe Spirit* (2011), launched at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival with a linked concert in Atina, Italy, saw the duo interacting with electronic backdrops alongside acoustic playing. *Chronicles* (2013) represented a new direction for the duo with live electronics and bass clarinet incorporated into the sonic fabric, with a true symbiosis of improvisation and composition.

Their music has been broadcast nationally on BBC Radio 3 and they have appeared several times on BBC Radio Scotland both in live performance and interview.



FMR CD 413

CHICK LYALL Piano ROB HALL Eb, Bb, Bass Clarinets

