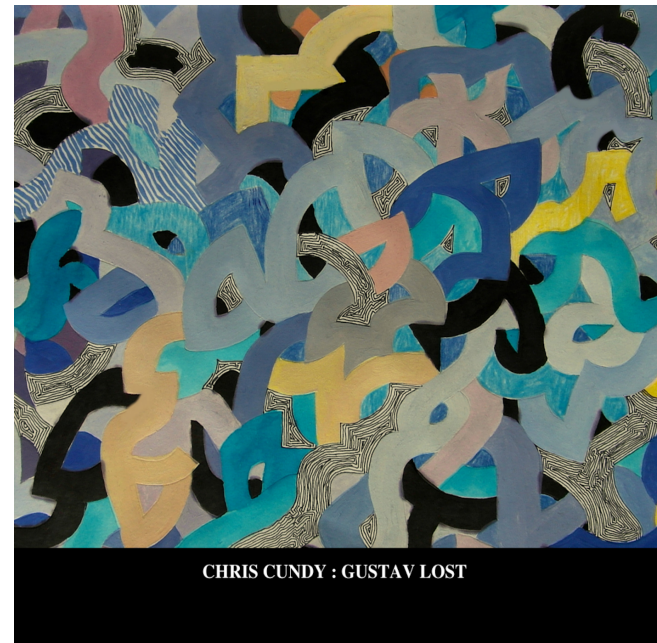


# PRESS RELEASE

## CHRIS CUNDY : GUSTAV LOST

*Featuring* Fyfe Dangerfield, Mat Martin, Hannah Marshall, Dominic Lash, Mark Sanders, and Chris Cundy

FMRC423-0616



For several years now bass clarinetist Chris Cundy has kept a steady recording output that represents mainly free improvisation and experimental music, but he's also worked as an arranger and accompanist alongside a string of alt-pop artists including Little Annie, Ladan Hussein (aka Cold Specks), Baby Dee, Devon Sproule, and Fyfe Dangerfield. There have also been pictorial soundtracks made in collaboration with the electronica group Longstone and he has produced music for theatre. With *Gustav Lost* (a play on the composer Gustav Holst perhaps?) he presents an album of instrumentals played by an ensemble who take on a broad range of Cundy's musical ideas, while allowing a spontaneity of its own.

To some extent this sextet follows on from his involvement with *Gannets* - a group dating back to the mid-2000's and featuring some of the same musicians. The edginess and humour enjoyed in that group remains, but it gets contrasted with some rather different energies and structures in *Gustav Lost*. Thematic material has become more pronounced, with a series of naive melodies playing out and allowing improvisations to gradually unfold around them. Rather than blurring the lines between freedom and structure Cundy is interested in looking out for where eccentricities lie between them, and how this throws the music into a high relief.

*Hello Pigeon* is dedicated to the late saxophonist Lol Coxhill. It portrays a feeling of mischief remembering an evening Chris spent with Coxhill some years ago where a 78RPM gramophone player was flung off a table onto the floor and the music continued playing as if nothing had happened at all. Something similar is heard in *Sweet Tobacco* - the piece is reminiscent of an awkward or eccentric walk recalling a time when Cundy worked as a circus musician. Other tracks such as *The Nun* or *Following Hazel* explore a more atmospheric side to the album through a set of cyclical themes bringing a rustic quality in the orchestration and group dynamic to the fore.

**Chris Cundy**