



On August 14th 2016 the Café Oto staged a reunion concert of a group of old friends, Ian Brighton – guitar, Trevor Taylor - percussion, Philipp Wachsmann – violin and Marcio Mattos – double bass, collectively known as String Thing. We had been playing together since the early 70's, however due to circumstances not performed publicly since 1988 when we recorded the album “Eleven Years From Yesterday (FMR 002.) We were also pleased to be playing alongside and with other old friends, saxophonist Evan Parker and guitarist John Russell.

The story of this recording started two years ago, when I was trying to find a pathway back to performing improvised music. I recorded a dedication to Derek Bailey “A Voice You Left Behind” releasing it on Soundcloud in 2014. The interest gained, led to the production of my album “Now and Then” (Confront Recordings CCS62), which is a tribute to Derek, Lol Coxhill, Frank Perry, Philipp Wachsmann, Marcio Mattos, and especially, Trevor Taylor. For Trevor, along with Derek, was a key inspiration for my involvement in improvised music. In June 2016 the Wire Magazine kindly ran a four-page feature discussing my music, and the people I played with specifically those in String Thing. This publicity helped to obtain this gig at the Café Oto, who also assisted in the recording of the music

Meeting again and chatting outside the venue, as we would have done thirty years ago, was a wonderful experience and all felt the years slip away, as though time hadn't passed us by. This became evident as the music started to unfold throughout the evening. It was as exciting, dynamic, scintillating and highly empathetic as ever was before and thankfully, captured on this album. As Philipp Wachsmann said afterward “Wow, that was fantastic, why did we ever stop playing?”. Well life got in the way a bit, but we are here now, and so is the music.

Ian Brighton
October 2016

EVAN PARKER *sop saxophone*
JOHN RUSSELL *guitar*

IAN BRIGHTON *guitar*
PHILIPP WACHSMANN *violin*
MARCIO MATTOS *double bass*
TREVOR TAYLOR *percussion, electronics*

THE REUNION
LIVE FROM CAFE OTO
Evan Parker
John Russell
Ian Brighton
Philipp Wachsmann
Marcio Mattos
Trevor Taylor



FMRCD430