

**NOAH:
STORY OF AN ARC AND ITS SALVATION FOR PREPARED PIANO**

Christian Grifa, *piano*

Intro

01. The Angels' Trumpets Announce The Catastrophe 03:45

Part 1

02. Humans Vs Humans 03:25

03. The Flood 03:33

04. Noah's Loneliness Under The Stars, In The Vastness Of The Oceans 12:55

05. Interlude: Noah Glimpses Land 00:52

Part 2

06. Dance Of The Little Boy 01:55

07. Dance Of Love 04:51

08. Dance Of The Little Girl 01:38

09. Dance Of The Birds 04:36

10. Dance Of The Wine: Drunkenness Of Noah 07:36

11. Short Interlude: The Call 00:34

12. Gamelan: Dance for The Beginning Of A New Creation 07:54

Epilogue

13. Artist's Warning on Climate Change 01:49

Total Time: 55:28

Music and Piano Christian Grifa | Work recorded at Toto Sound Rome

Lorenzo Giornelli, Marco Maracci (Mixing Toto Sound Roma)

Texts **Francesca Papagni** | English translation by **Anna Rossolato**

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Utah and Meteorite, 2015, 120x100 cm



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Noah: the Story of an Ark and its Salvation

Inspired by figures such as Henry Cowell and John Cage, Christian Grifa has composed an extraordinarily and ethically multifaceted piece, entitled "Noah: the Story of an Ark and its Salvation". This composition for "prepared piano" transforms traditional listening into a completely new and original sound experience. Through the influence of Indonesian dances, Grifa offers a unique perspective on the story of Noah, concentrating on the rising of the waters of the earth, on the related conflicts and damage, offering a paraphrase of a stark glimpse of current events. The notes that narrate the Great Flood flank the preceding pictures of "Cain and Abel" and the "Hymn to the Earth", thus completing, like an iconographic metaphor of Michelangelo's story on the Sistine Chapel ceiling, the history of Man and Creation.

"Noah: the Story of an Ark and its Salvation" is not only an innovative and evocative musical creation, but also an urgent reflection on our current times, warning us to preserve and protect our beloved Planet.

Christian Grifa - Luigi Russo, Photographer



Pianist **Christian Grifa** was born in San Giovanni Rotondo, and from an early age, a clear interest in art and music in all their facets manifested itself in him: He therefore approached the study of the piano, first beginning a course at the Umberto Giordano Conservatory in Foggia, and in the following years, animated by great passion and curiosity towards compositional and harmonic musical analysis, he decided to move to the 'Niccolò Piccinni' Conservatory in Bari, until he obtained his diploma in piano, under the guidance of Maestro Emanuele Arciuli. During his piano studies, he attended master classes with world-famous masters such as: Marcello Abbado, Vincenzo Balzani, Roberto Corliani, Franco Scala, Michele Marvulli, François-Joël Thiollier. A pianist with conspicuous technical skills, and remarkable sound colours and volumes, driven by a great sense of belonging to his origins and a particular predilection for the most classical sonorities, as opposed to those of the modern world, he manages to alternate, in his compositions and performances the spectacularity and melodic and polyphonic sacredness of classical and virtuoso pianism to atonal and polyrhythmic polystylism, even managing to make use of the technique of the prepared piano, in which the use of artificial objects to alter or modify the original sound of the instrument itself is permitted. Not surprisingly, he worked for several seasons at the 'Staatstheater' in Mainz, and was the composer and reviser of the musical 'Interludes' of several well-known ballets, among them 'La Cenerentola' by Sergei Prokofiev, performed at the theatre in Mainz, and at the 'L. Pavarotti' municipal theatre in Modena; he interpreted Peteris Vasks' music for solo piano in Pascal Touzeau's 'Voices' at the 'Staatstheater' in Mainz; he also performed as first pianist Kurt Joss' 'The Green Table' at the 'Deutsch Oper am Rhein' theatre in Düsseldorf, and as soloist, together with the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jean-Michaël Lavoie, Alfred Schnittke's 'Concerto Grosso No. 1'. He has also created contemporary and pop music, soundtracks and adaptations for theatre productions, some of them very famous and topical, such as 'Gift' for the Mainz Theatre, 'Schmetterlinge sind frei', 'Frühstück bei Tiffany', and 'Jenny Hübner greift ein', for the 'Burghofbühne Dinslaken', written and directed by director-dramatist Nadja Blank. In September 2022, Aulicus Classics produced its first CD with original compositions titled "Ode to Earth". In 2023, Aulicus released a second CD titled "Cain and Abel". Also in 2023, for "Edizioni Da Vinci", the score of "Tiffany Suite" for saxophone quartet and piano was published. In September 2023, on the occasion of the 105th anniversary of the stigmata of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, he composed a musical work titled "Stigmata: Sounds from Earth and Universe" for the harmonium that the composer Giacinto Scelsi donated to the Capuchin friar in the 1950s. For this event, "Edizioni Stauros" published a book with the same title as the composition, and Stradivarius will release the CD, which will be presented by Vatican Radio, which will also create a podcast.