

DREAMS AND OTHER MUSIC

Brian Richard Earl, *Composer*

Massimo Laura, *Guitar (solo)* • Maurizio Simeoli, *Flute, alto flute, contrabass flute*

Edoardo Perlasca, *Guitar (in duet)* • Gianni Arfachia, *Bells*

01 Sueños Op.33 n.2 Y nada emporta ya que el vino de oro rebose	04:03
02 Three Pieces after Octavio Paz Op.14 n.1 Madrigal	02:48
03 Leonor, Three Sketches for Two Guitars Op.28 n.2 Una noche de verano	05:59
04 Three Pieces with No Meaning at All Op.49 n.2 Stillness	04:14
05 Three Pieces after Octavio Paz Op.14 n.2 Ejemplo	01:04
06 Leonor, Three Sketches for Two Guitars Op.28 n.3 Soñé que tú me llevabas	05:36
07 Sueños Op.33 n.1 La plaza y los naranjos encendidos	04:47
08 Three Pieces after Octavio Paz Op.14 n.3 Pasaje	02:20
09 Sueños Op.33 n.4 Desnuda está la tierra	03:47
10 Sueños Op.33 n.3 Desde el umbral de un sueño me llamaron	05:19
11 Leonor, Three Sketches for Two Guitars Op.28 n.1 Alla, en las tierras altas	03:55
12 Sueños Op.33 n.5 Tal vez la mano, en sueños	03:47
13 Three Pieces with No Meaning at All Op.49 n.1 Circles to Nowhere	02:32
14 Sueños Op.33 n.6 Campo	03:49
15 Three Pieces with No Meaning at All Op.49 n.3 Fragments of Nothing, Repeated	02:55

Total Time: 57:04

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Recording engineer **Mauro Scappini**

Producer Manager **Rosella Clementi** | Publishing supervisor **Romano Di Bari**

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Brian Earl is a composer whose works leave a favourable impression for their rare combination of contemporary and melodic sensibilities. His music, balancing modern expression with lyrical accessibility, stands apart in today's classical landscape, where such a synthesis is seldom encountered. This CD presents a selection of Earl's compositions for classical guitar, and classical guitar with flute - an intimate pairing that reveals his careful attention to melodic detail and instrumental texture. The CD also presents a rare suite of music for contrabass flute and bells. His work for all these instruments is niche and esoteric, providing listeners with an exclusive window into his personal voice, which remains distinct within the broader field of contemporary classical music. Earl's compositions have been performed by ensembles such as the La Scala Brass and recorded by orchestras including the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra. His music has been showcased by the La Scala Academy and in academic settings such as the Universities of Stanford and Saint Louis in the USA. Though his works are seldom heard in mainstream settings, they consistently resonate with listeners who appreciate the beauty of modern yet accessible classical music. This recorded collection highlights Brian Earl's unique contribution to the chamber music repertoire, offering delicate moments of melodic and structural reflection in an otherwise complex musical world. Between 1986 and 1988, Massimo Laura won six international guitar competitions, including Alessandria, Milan, and the Tàrrega competition in Spain. He has performed with major orchestras, notably playing Mauro Giuliani's First Concerto with the Camerata Academica of Salzburg under Sándor Végh. As a soloist, he has appeared with orchestras in Basel, Chile, Sanremo, Seville, and Tokyo. Since 1980, he has been a regular collaborator with Teatro alla Scala in Milan. He has released two albums: *Giochi* and *Carillon*. After a distinguished career with the Teatro alla Scala Orchestra in Milan and enriching experiences in Dresden and Berlin, Maurizio Simeoli, flute, is currently a member of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra. Edoardo Perlasca was first guitar of the International Mandolin Academy Orchestra (2008–2012), touring the U.S. and performing at international festivals. He has directed mandolin orchestras and performed as a soloist in Italy, Switzerland, Slovenia, and France. Since 2010, he has collaborated with Teatro alla Scala. He is also a specialist in Flamenco guitar. He has released several albums, including *Omaggi e variazioni* and *Mandolino Images*. Gianni Arfachchia is a percussionist of Teatro alla Scala.

Brian Earl is a composer and conductor. As an instrumentalist he was a member of the La Scala Opera House and Philharmonic Orchestras from 1983 to 2021. He conducted the La Scala Brass from 2006 to 2021. He studied composition at London University and conducting under George Hurst and graduated in tuba and contrabass trombone at the Royal Northern School of Music. He debuted as a composer in 1995 and has a large and varied catalogue to his credit, including works for wind and symphony orchestras, two chamber operas, two ballets, two operas and music for theatre and screen. The most recent years have seen the premiere of his *Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra* at Rheine in Germany, the premiere of his cantata *The Queen with Golden Hair* at the Stresa Festival in northern Italy, the performance of his *Sinfonietta* for winds at Ancona, at Moncada in Spain and at the University of Stanford in California, where his *Dylan Thomas Variations* for winds were also premiered in 2016. Also, in 2016 he composed the soundtrack of *Dione*, a short science fiction film, and in 2020 the soundtrack of *Tebori*, a horror thriller. In 2018 the La Scala Brass performed and recorded his *Contrapunctus super cantum cremonensem*. In 2019 the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra recorded a suite from his ballet *Nina and Vladimir*. In 2020 his personal site, www.brianearl.eu, featuring 130 recorded examples of his compositions, won a Silver Medal in the Global Music Awards. In 2023 his *Variations on a Theme Given in Dream* were performed by the Saint Louis University City orchestra. In 2024 he produced and recorded his ballet *The Story of the Prince of the Kingdom of Inside* with the La Scala Academy. Brian Earl's chamber music compositions are published in the USA by Wiltshire Music - Cor Publication, and in Italy by Edizioni Musicali Wicky.



Brian Richard Earl

Massimo Laura

Edoardo Perlasca

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