

Jess Gillam's second album enters the Official Classical Artist Chart at No. 1

'TIME' released by Decca Classics



Classic BRIT Award-winning saxophonist Jess Gillam's album, *TIME*, has entered the Official Classical Artist Chart at No. 1 today, following its physical release on Decca Classics on Friday 25 September.

This is Gillam's second album – following *RISE* in 2019 which also debuted in the No.1 spot.

TIME mirrors the arc of energy in a passing day and the constant orbit of our existence. With a huge range of styles, moods and influences, the music offers the listener a space to immerse themselves in an oasis of sound and reflection. Gillam carefully curated the recording to be experienced as a whole, accompanying the listener through the unrelenting cycles of life itself – it will make you want to dance, pause, soar with the melodies or simply just smile.

Jess Gillam says: *"I have been so touched by the response to TIME and thank you to all of those who have listened and have sent such lovely messages. This album is very personal and I wanted to create a space in which the listeners can immerse themselves and perhaps give them a moment away from the world as it is right now. To me, music has the potential to be utterly life-affirming and my one hope is that this album is providing people with some joy at this difficult time. Making TIME was one of the best experiences of my life. I am hugely grateful to all the musicians who have contributed to this album, the team who have helped to bring it together and to our wonderful producer Jonathan Allen."*

At the heart of the album is *Where the Bee Dances*: minimalist pioneer Michael Nyman's 20-minute masterpiece for saxophone and orchestra. The incredibly electrifying and technical concerto is one of Gillam's signature pieces and the work she performed in the final of BBC Young Musician in 2016, launching her career at the age of 17. Played on the album with the **Aurora Orchestra** and conducted by **Nicholas Collon**, recorded at Abbey Road, it is a piece that has inspired her from a

young age. Nyman is also well known for his multi-platinum soundtrack album to Jane Campion's *The Piano* (1993).

With a passion for pushing the boundaries of the saxophone and always looking to the next chapter of classical music, Gillam has also specially commissioned two new works for the album: *Dappled Light* by **Luke Howard** and *Orbit* by Goldfrapp's **Will Gregory**. The rest of the record features vivid contrasts between the intense rhythmic groove of **Anna Meredith**, the lilting, hypnotic patterns of **Brian Eno** as well as the hard-edged romanticism of Nyman and the gentle, melancholic whispers of Radiohead's **Thom Yorke**. There are also arrangements of works from multi-faceted and genre-breaking alternative artists including **Björk** and **James Blake** alongside familiar classical names such as **Philip Glass**, **Max Richter** and **Joby Talbot**. There is also be a 10-minute mini-documentary charting the making of the album available [here](#).

Australian Music Prize twice-longlisted composer Howard's *Dappled Light* is a reflection on early dawn, with a soothing bed of soft piano and marimba sounds. The floating saxophone echoes bird song at the break of the day and growing warmth from strings resembles the sun as it rises.

Gregory, a renowned composer, producer, and saxophonist, composed *Orbit* as a reflection on the hustle and bustle of day. The saxophone spins around in driving, cyclic melodic patterns, over a relentless arpeggic figure shared by marimba and strings and the groove of a bass synth underlay.

Collaboration is a key component of the album and Gillam's work. It is the first time the **Jess Gillam Ensemble**, made up of musician friends, have played and recorded together: the tracks were also refined in the studio with the input of the Ensemble as well as the composers/arrangers themselves. The album was mixed and mastered remotely whilst in lockdown.

Tracklist

Meredith Monk *Early Morning Melody*

Luke Howard *Dappled Light (commission)*

Thom Yorke arr. Benjamin Rimmer *Suspirium*

Philip Glass arr. Simon Parkin *Truman Sleeps*

Anna Meredith arr. Jack Ross *Bubble Gun*

Michael Nyman *Where the Bee Dances*

Will Gregory *Orbit (commission)*

Björk arr. John Metcalfe *Venus as a Boy*

Max Richter arr. Elspeth Mackay *On the Nature of Daylight*

Philip Glass *Melody for Saxophone No.10*

James Blake arr. Benjamin Rimmer *Retrograde*

Joby Talbot *Transit of Venus*

Brian Eno/Jon Hopkins/Leo Abrahams arr. Geoff Lawson *Emerald and Stone*

Jess Gillam saxophone

Aurora Orchestra/Nick Collon

Jess Gillam Ensemble

Jess Gillam Ensemble

Roberts Balanas Violin

Michael Jones Violin

Ciaran McCabe Violin

Gabriella Jones Violin

Laurie Anderson Viola

Eoin Schmidt-Martin Viola

Oscar Holch Viola
Ali Vennart Viola
Gabriella Swallow Cello
Matthew Sharp Cello
Rowena Calvert Cello
Sam Becker Double Bass/ Bass Guitar/ Bass Synth
Leif Lidstrom Piano/ Rhodes
Ben Dawson Piano
Lysandre Ménard Piano
Elsa Bradley Marimba/ Vibraphone/ Glockenspiel
Olivia Jageurs Harp
Sam Wilson Percussion
Alasdair Malloy Glass Harmonica
John Metcalfe Percussive Sounds

Singles schedule

12 June Luke Howard *Dappled Light (commission)*
3 July Thom Yorke arr. **Benjamin Rimmer** *Suspirium*
24 July Will Gregory *Orbit (commission)*
14 August Philip Glass arr. **Simon Parkin** *Truman Sleeps*
4 September Joby Talbot *Transit of Venus*

BBC Radio 3 This Classical Life

As well as performing and recording, Gillam is also a presenter on TV and Radio. In 2019 she became the youngest ever presenter for BBC Radio 3 and hosts her own weekly show and podcast "This Classical Life" where she chats to musical guests to swap tracks and share the music they love. The show has been nominated for a number of awards including a PRIX Europa in the Radio Music Programme category (October 2019) and the Prix Italia (October 2019 - special commendation). Earlier this year "This Classical Life" was awarded a Gold Award as the Best Specialist Music Programme at the UK Audio and Radio Industry Awards (ARIAS) and the show has also been nominated for best music production at the BBC Radio and Music Awards.

For more information please visit jessgillamsax.co.uk and for management enquiries please visit www.harrisonparrott.com/artists/jess-gillam

For all interview requests, images and further information please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations
Tel: 07807 831113
Email: maddie@rdmr.co.uk
Web: www.rdmr.co.uk

About Jess Gillam

"Gillam...spreads joy" *The Times*

"Gillam is the real thing, deserving serious attention" *Artsdesk*

Hailing from Ulverston in Cumbria, Jess Gillam is animating the music world with her outstanding talent and infectious personality, bringing classical music to new audiences through both her world class live performances and her work on television and radio.

After performing at the prestigious Last Night of the Proms in 2018 and having her performance described as "the indisputable highlight" by *BBC News*, Jess continues to grow her international

career. Highlights of the 19/20 season include performing with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as part of the Last Night of the BBC Proms Japan and New Year concerts with Osmo Vänskä and the Minnesota Orchestra.

This 20/21 season, she will perform across the world with leading orchestras such as The Halle, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Brno Philharmonic, and Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich. Jess also embarks upon her first US Recital Tour and will perform in many major cities on the East coast including the Lincoln Center in New York, in Boston, Washington, Princeton and Waterford. She is also a European Concert Halls Organisation (ECHO) Rising Star which, each year, gives Europe's brightest young musical talent an international platform.

Passionate about collaborating and exploring the versatility and dynamism of the saxophone, Jess will also launch her latest project - a tour with the 'Jess Gillam Ensemble': a dynamic group of close friends performing an electrifying range of music!

Jess is the first ever saxophonist to be signed to Decca Classics and her debut album "Rise" shot to No.1 in the Official UK Classical Charts. Featuring a selection of her favourite pieces ranging from Marcello and Shostakovich to David Bowie and Kate Bush, it was highly celebrated and received rave reviews and was featured in The Times Top 100 albums of 2019.

Jess has been the recipient of a Classic BRIT Award (in the Sound of Classical Poll), was the first ever saxophonist to reach the final of BBC Young Musician, and in 2019, performed live at the BAFTAs (British Academy of Film and Television Awards) to millions of viewers at home.

She is also a presenter on TV and Radio. She became the youngest ever presenter for BBC Radio 3 and hosts her own weekly show called "This Classical Life" in which she talks to musical friends and colleagues about the music that inspires them. The show is in its second year now and in 2020 has been awarded the prestigious ARIA Award for Best Specialist Music Show. It has been very well received by audiences and critics alike, with *The Guardian* stating "there are many more established presenters who lack Gillam's warmth and impressive ability". In 2019 she also presented five BBC Proms on television alongside Katie Derham and Tom Service.

A free spirit in style and character, Jess is a passionate advocate for the power of music in society, often combining her concert engagements with educational and social projects. She is a patron for Awards for Young Musicians and a trustee for the newly formed HarrisonParrott Foundation, working towards full inclusivity of all ethnicities, genders, disabilities and social backgrounds with equal access to the arts.

She is a Vandoren UK Artist and became the youngest ever endorsee for Yanagisawa Saxophones aged just 13. She is a lover of live music and continues to promote her own concert series, bringing international talent to her hometown of Ulverston.