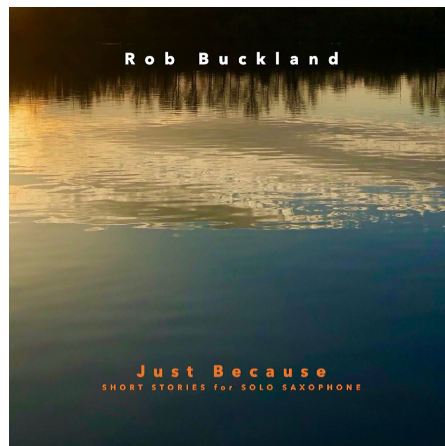


ROB BUCKLAND: JUST BECAUSE - SHORT STORIES for SOLO SAXOPHONE (RB 0321)

Throughout my life as a performer, I have always sought out and connected with music with a narrative, a story to tell, and a compositional flexibility that allows me to continue my lifelong desire to bring together the colours, nuance and inflection from the jazz influenced side of the saxophone and the technical fluency and control of the contemporary classical approach to the instrument.

The catalyst for this recording was a stunning solo piece that my great friend and frequent musical collaborator Gwilym Simcock wrote for my 51st birthday. As the musical world came to an abrupt halt in the spring of 2020, I decided to use the time to record a definitive version of this piece, (the title of Gwil's piece, "Just Because", actually seemed to suggest the idea of making a solo recording at this time to me), and to curate a programme of solo works from other UK composers with whom I have a strong association. The unexpected time in my home studio also meant that I could begin completing the long planned suite of pieces for solo saxophone and backing track that I had begun when I wrote AltoGenesis back in 2012, and continued with Tenacity in 2015. (The premise of this suite of pieces is that each solo saxophone is featured as soloist, with a backing generated only on that particular saxophone, using the instrument harmonically, melodically and rhythmically, generating rhythm effects, key clicks, special effects etc only using the saxophone itself).



The resulting recording is almost a double album on one CD - the first part of the disc, where I am curator/performer, features the nine completely solo works from Graham Fitkin, Jay Capperault, Gwilym Simcock, Gary Carpenter, Sally Beamish, Julian Argüelles, Jenni Watson & Andy Scott. This leads into the second part where I become composer/performer. Despite initially evolving from seemingly unrelated works, there seems to me to be a real connection between the wonderfully creative and captivating solo works at the start to the five interlinked movements of my suite of 'Short Stories' that brings the disc to a close. I am really proud of the whole architecture of the recording and the journey that it (hopefully) takes the listener on.

This disc represents a deeply personal expression of who I am as a musician and I have tried to capture a genuine sense of performance as I recorded each piece, despite them being played in a studio setting. I have invested a great deal of myself in this album, arguably my most personal to date, and I genuinely hope that the listener finds something to connect with, something to engage and excite the imagination, something that is not actually about the saxophone at all.

It seems to me that there is an innate simplicity, beauty and openness in solo instrumental music leaving the listener free to paint their own picture, explore a deeply personal reaction, emotion or feeling, to follow their own narrative. It is my sincere hope that this collection of 'short stories for solo saxophone' takes the listener, as all good stories do, on many journeys of intrigue and wonder.

RB Manchester March 2021

CDs available directly from www.robbuckland.com
Recording available for download/streaming through
Bandcamp: <https://robbuckland.bandcamp.com>

Track List:

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|-----|---------------|------------------|---|
| 1. | Braemar | Graham Fitkin | Published by fitkin.com |
| 2. | Déjà Vu | Jay Capperauld | Published by jaycapperauld.com |
| 3. | Just Because | Gwilym Simcock | Published by gwilymsimcock.com |
| 4. | Blue | Gary Carpenter | Published by Chester Music |
| 5. | Tom's Turn | Sally Beamish | Published by Faber Music |
| 6. | Etude No 1 | Julian Argüelles | Published by astute-music.com |
| 7. | Etude No 5 | Julian Argüelles | Published by astute-music.com |
| 8. | Downpour | Jenni Watson | Published by jenniwatson.com |
| 9. | Always There | Andy Scott | Published by astute-music.com |
| | Short Stories | Rob Buckland | Published by robbuckland.com |
| 10. | SopraMotion | | |
| 11. | AltoGenesis | | |
| 12. | Tenacity | | |
| 13. | Barança | | |
| 14. | Carillino | | |

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