

Stefano Pilia

In Girum Imus Nocte Et Consumimur Igni

Released 15th May on Die Schachtel



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In Girum Imus Nocte Et Consumimur Igni (We turn round in the night and, behold, we are consumed by fire) is a solo guitar work by the Italian composer Stefano Pilia released by the prestigious Milan based Die Schachtel label. Comprising a corresponding triptych of compositions on each of the album's two sides, *In Girum Imus Nocte Et Consumimur Igni* is based on symmetrical harmonic, melodic and narrative properties. Through a wise, peculiar and abstracted use of guitar instrumentation, the sound surface of the compositions reaches deeper electroacoustic-symphonic dimensions, echoing minimalist works, ambient music and indeterminate contemporary forms.

The third and final act of each side sees respective contributions from Rodrigo D'Erasmus (Gangs of New York, Afterhours) on violin and David Grubbs (Codeine, Gastr del Sol, The Red Krayola) on piano. In addition to enriching input from renowned players, a fascinating exception to the overarching rule of organic elements emerges on *Salita*, which manipulates samples taken from the work of influential Renaissance composer Giovanni Pierluigi de Palestrina.

The entirety of *In Girum Imus Nocte Et Consumimur Igni* – as this eerie palindrome and endecasillabo (a syntactic form in classical Italian verse) from Virgil suggests – moves through a path of alchemical symbolic narratives and poetic abstraction humbly reminiscent and allegorically inspired by Dante's *Divine Comedy* and by the *Nekyia* ('evocation of the dead') parts found in Book IX of Homer's *Odyssey*.