

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS

PRIMA  
CLASSIC

GERARD  
COUSINS  
STAY BY  
MY SIDE

**After the success of “The Poet Acts”**

**Gerard Cousins’** new album is a journey into his new compositions, in his unique style of relaxed sophistication and natural virtuosic performance.

Included are some touching works by Arvo Pärt, Ólafur Arnalds, David Roche, Ange Turell, and Stefan Levin.

**First single out on April 12th, 2024**

**Digital Release UPC 198391124327**

The Orchard Distribution  
[www.theorchard.com](http://www.theorchard.com)

**Catalog PRIMA052**

For press contact Edgardo Vertanessian  
[vertanessian@primaclassic.com](mailto:vertanessian@primaclassic.com)

# STAY BY MY SIDE

## TRACKLIST

01. Stay By My Side - *Gerard Cousins*
02. One Step Away - *Gerard Cousins*
03. Prayer for Peace - *Gerard Cousins*
04. Gyan's song - *Gerard Cousins*
05. Tomorrow's Song - *Ólafur Arnalds (Arr. Gerard Cousins)*
06. Saman - *Ólafur Arnalds (Arr. Gerard Cousins)*
07. Haiku 1 - *Gerard Cousins*
08. For Alex - *David John Roche*
09. Once this was Now - *Ange Turell*
10. Haiku 4 - *Gerard Cousins*
11. mRNAissance (after Marco dall'Aquila) - *Gerard Cousins*
12. Night in the Village from Six Studies - *Stefan Levin*
13. Haiku 2 - *Gerard Cousins*
14. Für Alina - *Arvo Pärt (Arr. Gerard Cousins)*
15. Haiku 3 - *Gerard Cousins*
16. Spiegel im Spiegel - *Arvo Pärt (Arr. Gerard Cousins)*
17. In the Sky and on the Ground - *Nils Frahm (Arr. Gerard Cousins)*
18. Spiegel im Spiegel (Reflection Version) - *Arvo Pärt (Arr. Gerard Cousins)*

The underlying themes of this album include peace, stillness and calm. My focus, as always, with my music is to aim to produce something that is beautiful. The pieces are a mix of originals by guitarist-composers and my own improvisations and compositions. There are also some new transcriptions of piano pieces which I have been working on for the past few years.

Other works on the album came to me through serendipitous meetings or the tangled fortunes of internet explorations. The inspiration starts close to my home with the Welsh composer David John Roche, then perhaps unexpectedly, we head not south (toward Spain) but northwards towards places that one does not naturally associate with the guitar. These contemporary composers of Sweden, Iceland and Estonia have provided a rich source of contemplative art.

The transcriptions present musical problems that are often solved by changing the tunings of the guitar strings. And with each new tuning I find novel combinations that inspire me to create new pieces. Many of these are improvised on the spot, or grow spontaneously and are later edited or expanded upon to create more structured pieces.

Now I have my own studio, the pressures of time constraints and expense have largely disappeared. This has created a certain artistic freedom which has enabled me to feel free enough to improvise and experiment with my interpretations. I hope you find the result as enjoyable and intriguing as I did whilst making it.

# GERARD COUSINS

Gerard Cousins is a true innovator in the world of classical guitar, pushing the boundaries of his instrument to create mesmerising music that appeals to a wide audience. From his unique interpretations of Philip Glass's piano music to his transcriptions of choral composer Eric Whitacre, Gerard's recordings have garnered millions of streams and landed on the front page of Apple Music.

But Gerard's music is not just confined to the studio. His live performances are a true experience, featuring a repertoire that combines imaginative guitar arrangements with his own compositions. Gerard's improvisational skills and interaction with the audience make every concert a one-of-a-kind event.

Gerard's passion for music began early in life, absorbing the recordings of his guitar heroes John Williams and Julian Bream, as well as exploring the worlds of jazz, rock, electronic, Indian classical, flamenco and minimalist music. It was a concert by the legendary Joe Pass that convinced him of the power of a single guitar to captivate an audience.

Gerard's journey to create the music he wanted to hear was not easy, but his perseverance paid off. His albums show an artist who started with traditional Spanish repertoire and evolved to incorporate his diverse influences. With his 2014 album, *"The First Beat is the Last Sound,"* Gerard found his unique voice, blending his past influences with his own original compositions.

Gerard's recordings are broadcast all over the world and he has had special radio programmes dedicated to his guitar playing and compositions on BBC Radio Wales and France Musique. In 2015 he appeared on UK television as a finalist on Sky Arts *'Guitar Star'*.

A graduate of the University of Leeds and Enschede Conservatorium (Netherlands), he has performed in many festivals and concert halls around the world, from the Purcell Room on London's South Bank to concert halls all over Europe, South America and the Middle East. He has released eight albums, each one focusing on a different area of music from traditional Spanish repertoire to his original compositions and his unique re-imaginings of traditional Welsh music.

*"Stay by my Side"* is Gerard's second album with Prima Classic, following *"The Poet Acts"*.





# CREDITS

Executive producer: **Edgardo Vertanessian**

Recorded at Sally's Studio, Reading, UK in October 2023

Mixing and Mastering: **Edgardo Vertanessian**

Guitar: **Antonio Marin Montero** (1992) with many thanks to **Roger DeBree**

Photographs by **Robert Pugh**

Cover design: **Andrew Vlasov** and **Tatyana Vlasova**

All Texts by **Gerard Cousins**

Booklet: **Romina Pacor**

Catalog number: PRIMA052

This booklet is available for free download at [www.primaclassic.com](http://www.primaclassic.com)

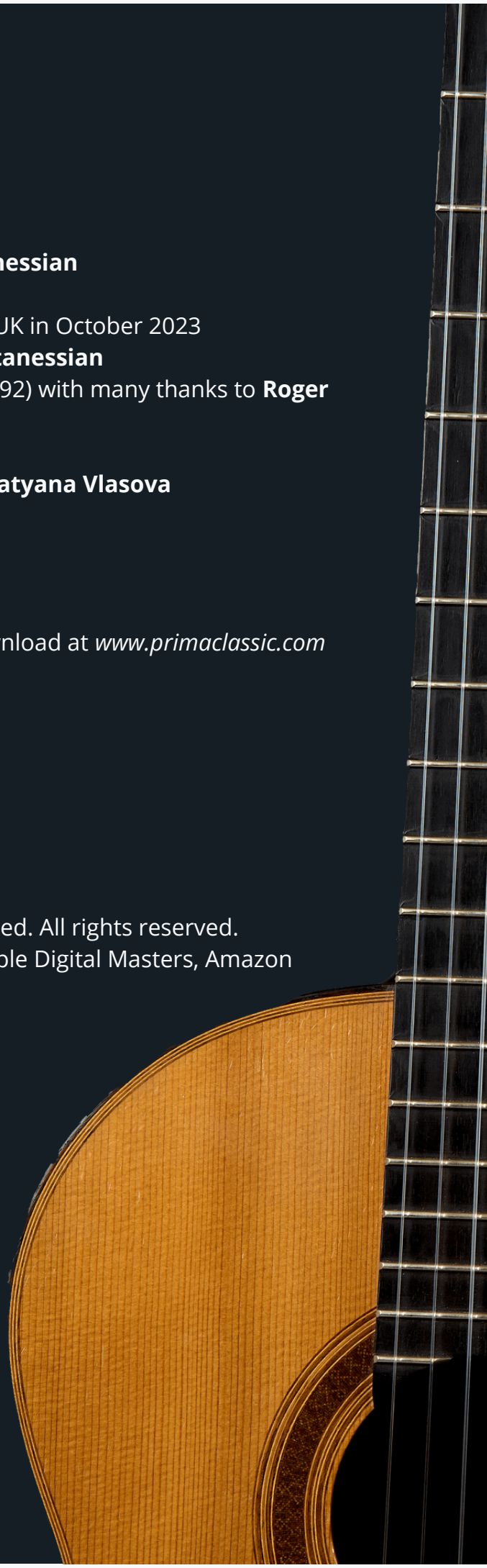
**PRIMA**  
CLASSIC

© & ® 2024 Prima Classic.

All trademarks and logos are protected. All rights reserved.

Available in Hi-Res Audio (96/24), Apple Digital Masters, Amazon Ultimate HD, and Dolby ATMOS

[www.primaclassic.com](http://www.primaclassic.com)







NEW MUSIC + NEW ARTISTS + EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCES

*Our mission is to produce beautiful music performed by accomplished artists,  
and deliver it to the widest possible audience.*

*From the dramatic heights of 19th-century opera  
to the intimate sound of a Spanish guitar piece composed today,  
at **Prima Classic** we strive to guarantee recordings of the finest musical quality.*

### **The Healing Power of Music**

Backed by multiple scientific studies from around the world, we believe in the healing power of human interactions through music, especially in these times of stress and isolation.

### **Top-tier musicians**

We carefully choose our artists from the academic, classical, and popular music scenes. These are well-established musicians with a solid background in their instruments and years of experience as performers, educators, composers, and musicologists. Some of them are world-famous stars.

From centuries-old pieces to original compositions, our artists deliver their unique approach to music, be that in the style of relaxation and calming music, or in the performance of heart-wrenching dramatic pieces of the *bel canto* operatic repertoire.

### **Real instruments - Real sounds**

No synthesizers, no samples, no loops, no AI-produced music, no instruments from libraries.

We believe in the unique energy of the sounds that come from real instruments produced with the hands of human beings. Our choice of instruments is varied, ranging from grand pianos to different acoustic guitars (some of them unique in the world), from harps to Kokle (ancient Latvian table harp), and from Bendir (ancient hand frame drum) to Handpan (tonal drum invented in the 2000s), and others, both traditional and less known acoustic instruments.

### **Hi-res from inception**

All of our albums are recorded at 96k/32-bit floating (reduced to 24 bits at Mastering) using the highest quality audio equipment to date. All our recordings are available in Hi-Resolution (Studio Quality 96/24), Apple Digital Masters, and all our new releases are also available on Dolby ATMOS.