
ON THE EDGE DUO
FRANCESCO DI GIANDOMENICO, GUITAR
FABIO AFRUNE, PIANO
ON THE EDGE
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
FOR GUITAR AND PIANO
DOBERMAN
MUSIQUE

NOTES

The sound world of *On The Edge Duo* is a space of discovery, where contrasts meet, where intimacy and strength coexist, and where tradition and innovation constantly redefine each other. Conceived by Alessandra Gentile and formed by pianist Fabio Afrune and guitarist Francesco Di Giandomenico, the duo explores the expressive potential of an instrumental pairing that remains rare yet fascinating.

Their shared curiosity drives them beyond the familiar, building bridges between composers, performers, and audiences. With international experience spanning Europe, the Americas, and Asia, Afrune and Di Giandomenico have forged a distinctive artistic voice — refined, adventurous, and profoundly human.

The journey begins with *Snippers* by Annette Kruisbrink, a kaleidoscopic miniature where fleeting ideas shimmer and vanish like fragments of light. Playful and virtuosic, it turns the instruments into shifting mirrors, each reflecting the other in continuous motion.

From the Netherlands, the path leads to the United States with *Kindred Spirits* by William Bland — represented by *Dragon* and *Pastorale*. Bland has written extensively for guitar, including six Sonatas for guitar and piano, in close collaboration with David Starobin and, more recently, Francesco Di Giandomenico. *Dragon*, arranged by Bland, bursts with rhythmic vitality and luminous color — a dance of sonorities that pushes both instruments to their expressive edge. *Pastorale*, originally for solo piano, unfolds with serene meditation, its calm surface revealing inner lyricism and poise.

Adrian Andrei's *Six Danses de Transylvanie* weave folk vitality with contemporary harmony. The music evokes ritual dances where the piano becomes percussive and the guitar alternately sings, breathes, and whispers. The *Danse du Bâton and Danse Crié* radiate raw, earthy energy, while the *Ronde Lente* and *Ronde de Noce* reveal a more introspective side — music both ancient and new, rooted in Transylvania yet transformed by the duo's modern sensibility.

Steve Goss's *Intermezzi* offer a moment of suspension and introspection: six brief movements, from the relentless *Moto Perpetuo* to the tender *Nocturne* and elegiac *Lament*, explore the balance between sound and silence. Each is a concise emotional landscape, allowing the duo to sculpt time through listening and resonance.

The album concludes with *Introduction & Bridge of Lights* by Giorgio Mirto — a poetic farewell and vision of connection, where the two instruments trace the same horizon, sometimes distant, sometimes intertwined, meeting in a final resonance that feels like a new beginning.

In a world where traditions often diverge, *On The Edge Duo* invites us to listen differently — to perceive dialogue where others hear division, and connection where distance seems inevitable. This album, centered on living composers, is a testament to faith in contemporary creation: music that breathes, questions, and evolves. For Afrune and Di Giandomenico, the "edge" is not a limit but a place of birth — where two worlds meet and new soundscapes emerge.

Fabio Afrune is an Italian pianist celebrated for his refined touch and expressive depth. Winner of the Roscini Prize, Prix Gerofi-Baschwitz, and UNESCO Special Prize, he has earned international acclaim across Europe, the Americas, and Asia. His repertoire spans from early music on historical instruments to the great Romantic and contemporary masters. Composers including Krassimir Taskov, Yifan Shao, and Luiz Castelões have written for him. After graduating with honors from the Conservatory of Perugia, he obtained his Master en Musique and Master Spécialisé with *grand distinction* at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, focusing on Schumann, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Beethoven's late sonatas. Alongside his concert career, he teaches international masterclasses, conducts choirs and the "Atelier de Musique" Orchestra, and directs festivals and outreach projects promoting music education and inclusion.

Francesco Di Giandomenico began his studies with Claudio and Leonardo De Angelis, later refining his artistry in Puerto Rico under Grammy-nominated composer Ernesto Cordero, who praised his "refined musical sensitivity." He holds multiple degrees with top honors — in Guitar, Pedagogy, Orchestral Repertoire, and Political-Economic Sciences — and has premiered numerous works dedicated to him by composers such as W. Bland, J. Moller, G. Mirto, E. Cordero, A. Andrei, F. Sulpizi, A. Rossi, and R. Hutmacher. Di Giandomenico has performed in major cities worldwide — New York, Beijing, London, Berlin, Rome, Montevideo — invited by leading institutions including the Italian Embassy in Beijing, Roosevelt University, and Tsinghua University. He explores contemporary and electronic music and, with violinist Paolo Castellani, forms the *SatorDuo*, praised for its "energy, emotional intensity, and virtuosity" (The Iberian and Latin American Music Society, London) and internationally recognized as "one of the most exciting duos in Italy today" (Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago). His works for guitar ensembles are published by Les Productions d'OZ (Canada).

Producers: Francesco Di Giandomenico, Fabio Afrune
Recording and Mixing Engineer: Filippo Antonio Moretti
Photograph: David Starobin
Art cover: Palimpsest, C. Damon Carter, 2024, acrylic on a lithograph
Graphic designer: Florence Lemay

Recorded : Piano et Forte Studios, Perugia, Italy, September 26–27, 2025
Piano: Steinway & Sons Concert Grand Model D
Guitar: Leonardo De Gregorio
Strings: Knobloch

All compositions are published by Les Productions d'Oz and are performed by Francesco Di Giandomenico (guitar) and Fabio Afrune (piano).

This recording is dedicated to the memory of Giovanni Di Giandomenico (1944–2025).

Kindred Spirits, Six Dances de Transylvanie, and *Introduction & Bridge of Lights* are dedicated to Francesco Di Giandomenico and Fabio Afrune.

ON THE EDGE

FRANCESCO DI GIANDOMENICO, GUITAR
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ON THE EDGE DUO

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FOR GUITAR AND PIANO

1. **Snippers *** 07:43
Annette Kruisbrink (1958-)

Kindred Spirits *
William Bland (1947-)
2. *I. Dragon* 03:59
3. *II. Pastorale* 06:04

Six danses de Transylvanie *
Adrian Andrei (1977-)
4. *1. Danse du bâton* 00:39
5. *2. Danse en cercle* 01:03
6. *3. Ronde lente* 01:59
7. *4. Ronde de noce* 00:57
8. *5. Danse crié* 01:48
9. *6. Ronde du bâton* 01:11

Intermezzi
Stephen Goss (1964-)
10. *1. Moto Perpetuo* 02:05
11. *2. Nocturne* 02:23
12. *3. Bagatelle* 02:59
13. *4. Serenade* 02:09
14. *5. Lament* 03:27
15. *6. Ballad* 02:10

16. **Introduction & Bridge of Lights *** . . 06:44
Giorgio Mirto (1972-)

Total playing time : 47:50

** World premiere recordings*

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