Press release

**REWILDING
the new album from Richard Durrant**

The new instrumental album ***Rewilding*** by maverick English composer and concert

guitarist Richard Durrant is a highly topical musical fantasy.

Led by Durrant’s guitars, ukuleles and cello, this uplifting and optimistic album has a sharp focus on the natural world and more than a hint of English prog.

The joyful power of the track “The Return” and spiritual depth of “Leaf” suggest this is Durrant at his best.

The album is clearly inspired by the natural world and its ability to regenerate when freed from mankind’s interference.

Production values are also sky high with Durrant recording on handmade valve mics to do justice to his collection of beautiful instruments.

A Gary Southwell, bog oak concert guitar, ukuleles by Pete Howlett and a 1965 Gibson SG (to name but a few) are heard alongside Brian Gulland’s bassoon and crumhorns - it makes listening to ***Rewilding*** from the hi-rez audio files almost compulsory.

**Could this be his Tubular Bells for the Covid generation?**

Durrant began composing Rewilding in January 2020 continuing throughout lockdown. As he says himself: *“The world changed and so did my music”.*

With Covid19 came the cancellation of Richard’s concerts. His solo 2020 tour was to have been from St Magnus Cathedral, Orkney to Santiago de Compostela in Spain cycling between venues carrying his instruments on his bicycle.

This was Durrant’s way to inspire discussion about the climate change crisis but the loss of this major project (and the cancellation of his two guitar summer schools) wiped out 18 months of planning and a year’s income. Thankfully it also allowed the composer extra time at home working on new music for the album and pushing production values through the roof.

Says Durrant: “Throughout all that has happened the concept of re-wilding (nature’s path of least resistance) has held my interest.

“Many ideas for beautiful sounds and combinations of instruments arrived as a consequence – turtle doves, contra-bassoon, nightingales, cello, cuckoos, ukuleles, oboe and berimbau. They’re all there on the new album!”

Durrant’s multi-instrumental skills are complimented by four other musicians who appear on the album: Brian Gulland (founder member of cult British band Gryphon) plays bassoon, contra-bassoon, oboe, recorders, crumhorns, organ & harmonium; Stephen Hiscock (EnsembleBash, Harrison-Birtwistle) plays exotic percussion whilst two of the Durrant children also appear – Daisy on accordion and brother Django Durrant on cajon and drums.

Even the youngest Durrant (Felix), despite being a fine bass player and pianist, had to be content with the job of tape-op for his Dad during the lockdown recording sessions!

To reflect the new science facilitated by re-wilding, one half of the album is about the

*Superterranean* (above ground) whilst the other is set in the *Subterranean*.

The British “unrealist” artist Jon Everitt’s striking work on the gatefold sleeve design plays wonderfully with this idea as does the detail on the inner sleeve created by soil scientist David Sheil (close inspection reveals the musicians depicted as protozoa gently flocculating the soil amongst the mycorrhizal fungi).

The album has a strong connection with Knepp Wilding project in Sussex where Richard performed a gig with a nightingale and folk singer Sam Lee one summer’s evening back in 2018.

**Notes to editors:**Rewilding will be available on all streaming platforms, also on sumptuous, gatefold 180g, vinyl and as hi-rez downloads from 31 October 2020.

There will be a live- stream launch event from Ropetackle Arts Centre, Shoreham by Sea on the day viewable on Facebook and YouTube with limited actual tickets available.

**More details:**

www.richarddurrant.com