



## HANS OTTE The Book of Sounds

Label

**CARLOS CIPA**

Format

**2LP**

Catalog Number

**CC 003LP**

EAN

4251804183796



Store Price

**\$27.99**

Release Date

**02/21/25**

Territory

**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - O - JAZZ**

### DESCRIPTION

Performed by **Carlos Cipa**. The new recording of *The Book of Sounds* is an intimate exploration of the piano by pianist Carlos Cipa – a way of looking into the sound, of listening into the moment when Cipa's fingers press down on the piano keys. *The Book of Sounds*, composed between 1979 and 1982 by composer and pianist **Hans Otte**, is a musical pendulum movement of one hour in twelve "pieces," as the composer himself describes them. Chords and melodies repeat themselves, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly; they follow each other in harmonic cadences and yet never dissolve – a timeless back and forth. *The Book of Sounds* is the European-German answer to the concert music of American minimalism. But it is also the essence of many questions about society and the human condition at that time. Inspired by Zen Buddhism, Otte was convinced that a return to simplicity, to the unagitated – a piano, harmonic cadences, a middle register – frees the listener to focus on what is really important in art: the human being. Introspection begins with listening. Seldom have simple chords and melodies been so selectively staged. It is a process of endless reduction – no wild sound dramaturgies, no climaxes, hardly any beginning or end. The interpreting pianist simply prepares a tableaux of perception for the listener. Cipa naturally sets accents; he recorded the 12 pieces on three different pianos – a Steinway grand piano, a Yamaha piano, and a Yamaha CP-70, an early electric piano – to help shape the tonal characteristics. Carlos Cipa hits the nerve of the times with this new recording. What music can be as art is still up for debate today. *The Book of Sounds* is not "art-proof" and in this it is still a provocation today; absolutely unspectacular and practicing relaxation. It is a wonderful invitation to feel, experience, and perhaps even find oneself in the confrontation with the work – and for a moment not to fuel the discourse. Cipa, who otherwise appears as a composer himself, here carries out Otte's intended gesture of withdrawal in a double sense and steps into the background as creator but also interpreter, in order to bequeath *The Book of Sounds* to the loudspeakers and headphones at home in one step forward.

### TRACKLISTING

- A1. The Book of Sounds - Part 1 (7:34)
- A2. The Book of Sounds - Part 2 (8:32)
- B1. The Book of Sounds - Part 3 (5:05)
- B2. The Book of Sounds - Part 4 (5:05)
- B3. The Book of Sounds - Part 5 (5:52)
- B4. The Book of Sounds - Part 6 (3:26)
- C1. The Book of Sounds - Part 7 (8:01)
- C2. The Book of Sounds - Part 8 (5:09)
- C3. The Book of Sounds - Part 9 (2:46)
- D1. The Book of Sounds - Part 10 (11:49)
- D2. The Book of Sounds - Part 11 (3:30)
- D3. The Book of Sounds - Part 12 (4:33)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The new recording of *The Book of Sounds* is an intimate exploration of the piano by pianist Carlos Cipa – a way of looking into the sound, of listening into the moment when Cipa's fingers press down on the piano keys.
- *The Book of Sounds*, composed between 1979 and 1982 by composer and pianist **Hans Otte**, is a musical pendulum movement of one hour in twelve "pieces."
- Chords and melodies repeat themselves, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly; they follow each other in harmonic cadences and yet never dissolve – a timeless back and forth.

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