

TREACHEROUS ORCHESTRA

New CD title/(Label/Cat.No):

Grind/(Reveal/045CDX – physical album and 045DDX – digital album)

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Web – <http://treacherousorchestra.com/> / <http://revealrecords.co.uk>

“TREACHEROUS ORCHESTRA does have a full on, intense ‘live’ sound” agrees bagpiper, whistle player and co-producer Ali Hutton

“and we wanted to try and recreate that intensity and power on the new album. Studio performances can often be tamed down because of the environment in which you are recording. We tried hard through the studio process to capture the live edge associated with the band.”



Of their previous album 'Origins', the media said

“a pounding, sweaty, meaty debut which promises much and delivers even more: miss out at your peril”

SONGLINES *** (5-stars)**

“Treacherous Orchestra are a brave, loud 11-piece folk big band influenced by rock as well as traditional Celtic styles - rousing fusion from the vibrant Scottish scene”

THE GUARDIAN ** (4-stars)**

“We are talking Scottish music royalty here... ('Origins')... is filled to bursting point with ideas”

FROOTS

“Their sound is traditional Scottish booted firmly into the 21st century... a genuinely exciting album packed with musical ideas: phrases, changes of rhythm and mood, and never a dull moment.”

R2 ** (4-stars)**

“a big, full sound which ranges far and wide in its musicality”

ENGLISH DANCE & SONG

“The new album ‘Grind’”, says accordionist John Somerville, “is almost a journey in to the band’s subconscious. We wanted to allow a natural progression from the last album and without any real pre-determined musical decision on direction the new material seemed to take on a darker more industrial edge.

“The image of the blacksmith is a potent one. It represented for us this idea of industrial vitality. Someone that forges products in a hot, sweaty environment. Lots of drive, movement, sparks, ignition, heat. We wanted these concepts to feed in to our music and the new band image.”

Ali Hutton adds “Like the Blacksmith, we all came from rural backgrounds to dwell in the city, which helped our musical styles to evolve, individually and as a band! The idea of someone that works hard, someone that’s creative, that forges mentally and physically. We feel like this symbolises the ideals behind the band. I think this is strongly reflected here. There are a lot of tracks that evolve from a very acoustic, natural, atmospheric vibe into hard hitting industrial grooves. The forging of ideas, of sounds, of musical thoughts!!

“The first track is meant to reflect a world where times were a lot simpler, before the industrial era, before the grip of technology. It’s supposed to portray a time when our minds were allowed to think for themselves, before we were told how we were supposed to live and think! It’s supposed to reflect the natural world, the rural areas, civilisations of old, an era of free thinking. This then introduces industrial sounds throughout the rest of the album to highlight the change in technology, the progressive nature of the world and it’s creatures. It’s a structure we’ve used on the opening tracks, Banger,

Grind and Numbers, 'what was and what is'. The whole album is a journey from past to present, highlighting good times, hard times, and looking to a brighter future. This reflects our current situation as a nation.

"The main goal with this album was to establish a very identifiably Scottish sound. For us to portray our national identity, and social and musical history through our music. We want people to listen to it and have a sense of being. We want it to conjure feelings of pride for what we have accomplished as a nation, and what we've been through to reach the point we're at now... A nation of proud, forward thinking beings!"

On stage the players are hugely entertaining, mixing their original tunes up with theatrical anarchic rock attitude. Here is a band that is playing at the next level, technical and impressive, yet impossibly raw, whose shows are always vital and make the audience feel truly alive in the moment. A Treacherous Orchestra gig is quite unlike anything else. The players set a true musical course that continues to build and build. Through their music the band take the listener on a journey through many moods, emotions and tempos often within moments!

Of the new tunes included, fiddler Innes Watson says "These were all written individually and slowly perfected over the past two years or so. Each track starts with something very simple, the barebones of a tune. A melody intact, riddled with thousands of possibilities. Think of each track as a perfectly formed object from the smithy and the melodies as chunks of metal. We melt them down, shape a mould, meld them, shape them, Grind them, braze them, solder them, weld them, add leather, wood, plastics, bells and whistles. We galvanise them and polish them. It takes time, many different processes and some serious sweat and blood."

"The liveliness of the stage show" says bassist Duncan Lyall, "is, undoubtedly, one of the bands strong suits. The density of the arrangements make it a bigger challenge to capture effectively in the studio. The playing needs to be precise for the different layers to work together. It can't all be brute force, there has to be finesse. I think one of the things we did right was to aim for faster tempos. Some of the best live recordings we have are of the band playing fast and precise. When we play live the adrenaline kicks in and the juice comes through in the music. Recording the tunes at these faster tempos meant everyone had to dig deep and find the fire that comes naturally when we play live. When all else failed" he chuckles "whisky seemed to do the trick."

"One of the most enjoyable days we had during the recordings was spent at the Hamilton Mausoleum (just outside of Glasgow). Until recently the Mausoleum held the world record for the longest echo in a man made structure. It's about 15 seconds. We took some microphones and a few bits of studio kit and recorded accordion, two whistles and two fiddles live. On the title track 'Grind' there are two tunes played together. We wanted to create different spaces for the two tunes for a really deep soundscape. Rather than just add some reverb in the studio we recorded the slower tune in this building. It was a bit of an experiment but from the moment we opened the door and played a few notes in there we knew it was going to sound great. The whole day was an incredible experience."

A product of the recent renaissance in Scottish folk music, the Treacherous Orchestra is the ultimate eleven-piece, pan-Scottish outfit (with one member from Ireland). It's an aggregation that came together in the musical melting pot that is Glasgow, a location where the individual musicians first developed a strong affinity for each other's playing. "Every time this specific crowd of instrumentalists got together" John says, "musical sparks would fly". This musical empathy, and their passion for high-energy, innovative and evolving styles of playing, first came to recorded fruition in the exuberant sounds produced on their debut album 'Origins' (Navigator) and now fully explored on the new release 'Grind' (Reveal).

Each member of the band brings a strong individual sound and instrumental style to this powerful blending of the old with the new. In addition, many of the group are also gifted composers, producers and engineers in their own right and it is these cumulative talents that set the band apart in terms of forging their own unique interpretation of Scottish music.

Previous album

2012 - Treacherous Orchestra - 'Origins' (Navigator NAVIGATOR062)

The music

All tunes **Ainslie / Coyne / Hutton / Lyall / K. O'Neill / M. O'Neill / Reid / Somerville / Sutherland / Watson** except Banger which is **Ainslie / Coyne / Hutton / Lyall / K. O'Neill / M. O'Neill / Reid / Somerville / Sutherland / Watson / Finnegan**

Tracks and timings

1. **The Long Count** (6.44) / 2. **Masters** (4.20) / 3. **Halcyon Daze** (6.03) / 4. **Hounds** (5.19) / 5. **Banger** (8.08) / 6. **The Sly One** (5.10) / 7. **Rise** (1.05) / 8. **Grind** (7.22) / 9. **Numbers** (6.08)

'The feverish excitement that customarily attends the Treacherous Orchestra's return to their Celtic Connections birthplace looks set to attain uncharted peaks of euphoria on this festival Saturday night, as Glasgow's mightiest dirty dozen prepare to launch their second album. "Party music with a purpose. . . a brilliant and visceral real-time revitalisation of the Scottish music scene"' **STV**

(Treacherous Orchestra)... 'membership reads like a who's who of the latest generation of Scottish tradition based music - an exciting and invigorating breath of fresh air' **Folk Radio UK**

NOMINATED BEST GROUP BBC RADIO 2 FOLK AWARDS 2013

*To arrange interviews or radio / TV sessions with Treacherous Orchestra,
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