

PRESS RELEASE

# TESS SAID SO SCRAMBLE+FATE

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*"Warm, engaging and wildly expressive."* **Headphonaught**

*"The ability to conceive and implement fresh ideas that engage and surprise the listener is where this creative partnership really shines."* **Stationary Travels**

*"This piano and percussion duo is an inspired pairing."* **A Closer Listen**

*"A sonic delight... stunning."* **CutCommon**

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**Tess Said So** is unique. The repertoire for piano and percussion is all but non-existent, but rather than see that as a limitation, **Tess Said So** thrives. Built on a longstanding friendship, the duo of Rasa Daukus (piano, electronics) and Will Larsen (drums, percussion) wanted to take up the challenge, knowing the possibilities were endless and unexplored. Their music is not a jazz/pop trio missing a bass player; their music is of its own, individual and in defiance of conformity, genre, format and convention.

**Tess Said So** deliberately set out to do something very different with their second album, *Scramble + Fate*. Unlike their debut album, *I Did That Tomorrow*, Rasa and Will wrote the tracks together in the same room at the same time; improvising, exploring, innovating, jamming, tweaking, feeding off each other's ideas and looking for just the right combination, just the right sound. Sometimes searching for that perfect combination involved hours frantically exploring every instrument available in every combination ('Scramble'). Other times, they were grateful for the happy accidents that improvisation can bring ('Fate').

Written and recorded in Will Larsen's own recording studio, *Scramble + Fate* utilises a broad palate of sounds and innovative instrumentation. Piano and electronics are combined with timpani, glockenspiel, vibraphone, tubular bells, tambourines, shakers, triangles, crotales and a massive labyrinth of drums, large and small. Each is used, not to create a cacophony of sound, but instead a particular mood, a distinctive timbre, often with the most delicate touch.

Rasa and Will also sought out unusual and innovative recording methods. The track *Mr Jones* has a kalimba recorded inside a piano, setting off crazy sympathetic resonances in the piano strings. Underpinning that is an eerie, menacing electronic drone that could be straight out of a 1970's episode of *Dr Who*. The entire album is recorded with this kind of intimacy, with microphones set so close that the listener feels they are not sitting next to **Tess Said So** as they play, but sitting *inside* their instruments.

*Scramble + Fate* is an album about loss and what might have been. Each track is a unique dance of gorgeous soundscapes, layered textures, violent rhythms and beautiful, longing melodies - some deliberate, some accidental. Contemporary classical is seamlessly fused with jazz, pop, minimalism, ambient and world music, blurring expectations, labels and genre.



## TRACK LISTING:

1. Be
2. Scramble + Fate
3. Mr Jones
4. Urgent Monday
5. So long, perfect
6. 11.15
7. The Lie Within
8. Again Instead
9. Moto Yama
10. In Conversation Between
11. If
12. 4 Years