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Auction Details

[SADO: Weather Underground/2 CDs/Opera??](#)

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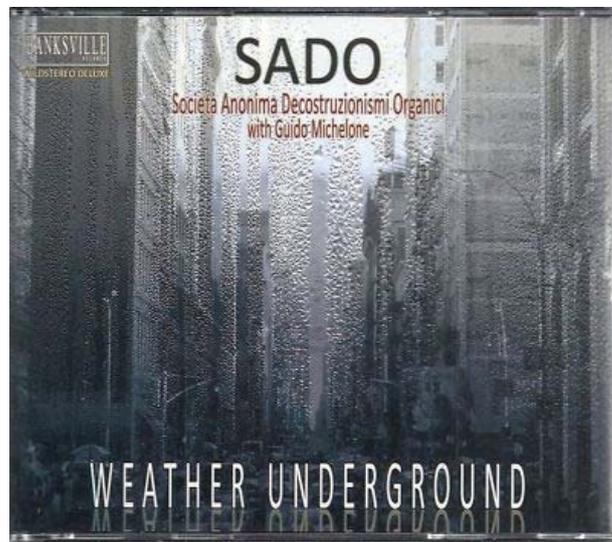
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Seller ID: hanskokkonen

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Description:

THE MUSIC - This is for the adventurous music listener only. I don't know what the proper form of this music is: oratorio? opera? musical? Whatever it is there is plenty of variety and it is adventurous music. There is everything here, I think, except the kitchen sink. The performers and their instruments are found near the top of the second scan.

"Though SADO's (acronym for Società Anonima Decostruzionismi Organici) musicality is in fact a detailed and very organized amalgamation of many different styles (though sometimes sounding chaotic), resulting on an Avant-Garde experience, this particular release also derives from the initial and basing foundations of Rock-In-Opposition. The lyrical concept is set upon the political interventions (left handed idealistically) of a political terrorist organization that taunted the USA during a period of the 70's and 80's, called Weather Underground. The fact that SADO has picked up this subject for the album, along with the (apparently anarchic) use of so many different approaches all combined in order to present a hard-to-digest/utterly challenging musicality, places this Italian band in the same shelf as legendary Henry Cow, Stormy Six, Etron Fou Leloblanc and the other bands that created the RIO aesthetics and conceptuality.

"The idea of releasing an English version of an Italian album is not new by any means. Italian bands have been doing it since the 70's (Remember Banco or PFM), but SADO have presented it in a solo release, meaning that this album is a double cd set, with the first cd presenting the Italian version, and the second presenting the translated-to-English lyrical content, based on the exact same music. This way the band strives to hit a larger market without losing their identity (I would add that the Italian version sounds better anyway...).

"Musically speaking, here we have one of the biggest challenges of the year, as the band really conglomerate as many different styles as they can. But while this could result on an anarchic or chaotic sonic experience, it becomes quite obvious that the band knows exactly what they want to do and how to present it. It is noticeable that SADO is very serious and competent when delivering their wide variety of approaches, always playing in their fingertips but never losing control over the result. There is absolutely no improvisation though the music can sometimes suggest it. In fact I believe that everything has been meticulously written and crafted and that the resulting play is really following a detailed script. All is done to the minor detail so that the listener can have both a direct and indirect impact when listening to the album. The indirect impact being the discovery of the huge number of details that lie underneath the surface and that need several careful listens to emerge.

"Just to provide a more indepth view on what I am trying to transmit here, let us consider the first 6 tracks of a total of 25 in which the album consists. When listening to these opening 6 tracks you can recognize traces of Tricky (the psycho trip-hop rhythms in the second track), John Zorn and Naked City, Coltrane, Frank Zappa, Pink Floyd, Mr Bungle and Weather Report (not by this order). This just to open hostilities...

"The way the band plays with styles, reminiscences and leanings is really exquisite, as they can easily deconstruct any style (see the jazzy blues playing in tracks 5 & 21, for example, or the bossa nova in track 9). And I can also find subtle relations to Area, Deus Ex Machina, French TV and other avant-garde bands of different countries and eras.

"The band does apply a jazzy approach in most of the times, especially in the (always excellent) Sax playing, which almost always brings a strong Jazz vibe to the tracks, except when depicting experimental dissonances that simply underline the avant-garde proposition of the band (track 8 as example). But the bass playing also points very much in the jazz direction.

"Vocally, I firmly believe that Mike Patton could have perfectly been involved in the process, as the style used is pretty much in line with somethings that musical genius has already produced.

"Basically, diversity is a standout point in SADO's music, as well as dynamics, lively production and excellence in presentation. All this resulting in a rich and tremendously varied album that just has to be mandatory to the most adventurous listeners out there. In that aspect, this is a work of art and something that should be in the collection of any fusion/avant-garde/Rio or even jazz listener out there!"

PERFORMERS - Sandro Marinoni: tenor sax, flute, trombone - Paolo Baltaro: bass, upright piano, Rhodes, synthesizer, noise generators, tambourine - Enrico Bricco: guitar, noises - Andrea Beccaro: drums, percussion - Boris Savoldelli: singer - Barbara Rubin: viola - Choirs - Battista Franco: serious announcer - Guido Michelone: storyteller on CD 1 (Italian) - Steven Thomas: storyteller on CD 2 (English).

"I normally don't apply the term 'madcap' to things because so much of what is now granted the title bears such a beggarly resemblance to the sort of insanity the old Loony Tunes / Merrie Melodies crew—Tex Avery & Co.—were artsmithing, but SADO has definitely tapped into that frenzied surrealistic subconscious in Weather Underground, ostensibly "a story of love and war loosely based on an actual event". The subject, of course, is the infamous U.S. Weather Underground radical sect, but the disc is by no means based on "an event" but rather the entire liberation effort through the lens of jazz, alt, avant-garde, episodic, and fractal compositions.

"This 2-CD set (one disc in Italian, one in English & Italian) is loaded with hidden and not-so-hidden musical references—often brief, so ya hafta pay attention (catch the Pink Floyd in Food a la Blue)—but really states itself more in the way a Waring blender chaos of rapidly morphing themes and riffs rarely staying focused on anything but their own anarchisms. Humor abounds, as do skillful serial demonstrations of finesse and looped consciousness. Hal Wilner might conceivably have put this together, had he been tripping on LSD bequeathed by Philip K. Dick, and fans of the construction methods of Zappa and Keneally will be more than happy to find similar delirious delights.

"It's well past time that some kind of tribute was concocted for that old SDS-ish phenomenon of days gone by, but I'm not sure any political purpose is herein served, only the artistic by way of a quasi-plunderphonicized amalgam of historical gasps and yelps. That may seem a tad negative. It's not. You'll understand when you hear, so expect bop and some of the African rhythms of the 70s as well (Manu Dibango, Osibisa, Mandrill, etc.), integrated as decorative instruments in a wildly transmutating tapestry. However, if you're a fan of the great old Italian prog-fusion days (Formula 3, Picchio dal Pozzo, PFM, Le Orme, Il Volo, Banco del Mutuo Soccorso, and so many tragically overlooked ensembles), you'll find much of note here...yea, even to the extent of the Greek (the great Aphrodite's Child)." (FAME Reviews)

2 CDs (Banksville 201002) are used but everything is in unused condition. Please see scans for more information.

STORY FOR YOU: Sometimes composers look conservative and austere in their black and white photographs. Consider, however, this diary entry from 1939 in which a young composer recorded that her composition teacher wore a "peach-colored shirt, a green tie with white polka-dots, a knit belt of the most vivid purple

with a large and ostentatious gold buckle, and an unbelievably loud gray suit with lots of black and brown stripes. All he needed was flowers in his hair and plaid socks to be a real picture." Who could have dressed so flamboyantly? Hint: 8 colors + 4 clothing items. Answer is at the bottom of the page, after the postage.

THE PARTICULARS - First class domestic postage for one CD is \$2.00 - for two CDs,\$ 2.50 - for three CDs, \$3.10 - For 4 CDs, 4.95 (flat rate box). 5 CDs and up will be sent at cost (which is what the previous numbers are). Overseas shipping: with the case, 1 CD,\$ 5.00 - 2 CDs, \$7.40 - 3 or more CDs, at cost; without the case (in cardboard folder), 1 CD, \$3.00 - 2 CDs, \$5.00 - 3 or more CDs, at cost. Answer to question: Arnold Schoenberg. Thanks to Brian for the question and answer.



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