

April 18, 2023  
For Immediate Release

## SUFJAN STEVENS TO RELEASE *REFLECTIONS*

Performed by Pianists Timo Andres and Conor Hanick

May 19th on Asthmatic Kitty Records

### [“Ekstasis”](#) Single & Video Out Now



From L to R: Conor Hanick (credit -Laura Desberg), Sufjan Stevens (credit - Dawn Miller), Timo Andres (credit - Michael Wilson)

Composer, multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter **Sufjan Stevens** announces the album ***Reflections***, a studio recording of his score for the ballet by choreographer **Justin Peck**, performed by pianists **Timo Andres** and **Conor Hanick**. It will be available **May 19th** via **Asthmatic Kitty Records**.

The first single released today —“**Ekstasis**”—is a lively and percussive movement that showcases the clever cross rhythms, counterpoint, and moving tonal centers that embody the whole of ***Reflections***. A video featuring Andres and Hanick performing “Ekstasis” live, directed by **Brian Paccione**, is also out now.

[Listen to “Ekstasis”](#)

[Watch Performance of “Ekstasis” by Timo Andres and Conor Hanick](#)

***Reflections*** was originally commissioned by Houston Ballet to accompany choreography by Peck and premiered March 21, 2019. Written for two pianos and eleven dancers, ***Reflections*** marks the sixth collaboration between Stevens and Peck, following *Year of the Rabbit* (2012); *Everywhere We Go* (2014); *In the Countenance of Kings* (2016); *The Decalogue* (2017); and *Principia* (2019).

The studio recording was engineered, mixed and mastered by Ryan Streber at Oktaven Studios. **Reflections** is characteristic Stevens: dynamic, melodic, memorable, emotionally resonant and playful (one track is titled “And I Shall Come To You Like A Stormtrooper in Drag Serving Imperial Realness”). It is about “energy, light and duality,” Stevens says. “I’m constantly thinking about bodies moving through space when I’m writing for ballet — that is what has informed this music, first and foremost.”



Artist of Houston Ballet | Photographer: Amitava Sarkar

This is Stevens’ second recorded release of his compositions for piano—following **The Decalogue** in 2019—and his first written for two pianos. There is a long tradition of composing for duo pianos—from John Adams’ *Hallelujah Junction* to Mozart’s *Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major*—and Stevens was happy to further explore the form. “Although I’ve never taken a lesson,” he says, “the piano was my first true love. Having two of them at my disposal was an exciting opportunity and gave me a real catharsis about the expansiveness of the instrument.”

Self-taught as both a pianist and a composer, Stevens’ first instrument was the oboe, which he started playing in 5th grade. He played in orchestras from high school through college and listened voraciously to recordings of classical music alongside pop radio. But Stevens would often take breaks from the oboe by improvising on the piano, working out music he had heard in passing — pieces by Chopin, Rachmaninov and Bach. “I learned by ear, in a very rudimentary way, inspired by a wide range of music,” he says. “A lot of the work that I compose is anachronistic as it doesn’t follow a genealogy of aesthetic. It can be a cornucopia of styles.” That’s the case with *Reflections*, where listeners may detect a hint of Debussy, Stravinsky, Philip Glass and even Bruce Hornsby.

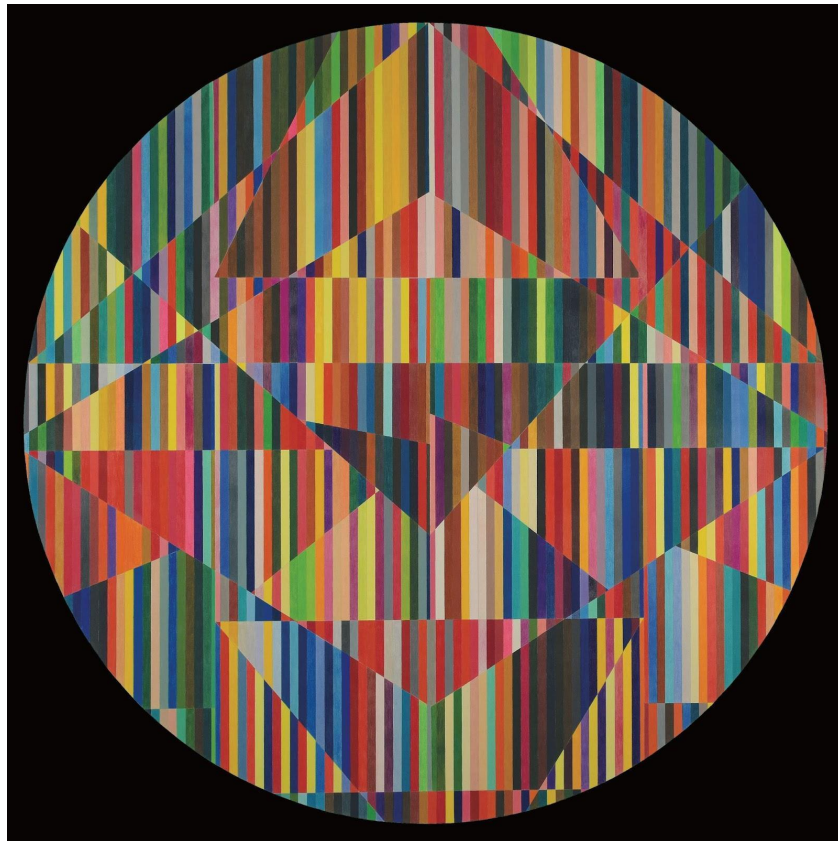
**Reflections** is now available for **pre-order** on CD and LP. The score will be available via G. Schirmer Inc./Wise Music Classical.

**[Pre-order Reflections](#)**

**Reflections Tracklist**

1. [Ekstasis](#)
2. Revanche
3. Euphoros
4. Mnemosyne
5. Rodinia
6. Reflexion
7. And I Shall Come To You Like A Stormtrooper In Drag Serving Imperial Realness

**[Download cover artwork & hi-res images of Sufjan Stevens, Timo Andres and Conor Hanick.](#)**



*Reflections* Cover Artwork by Jessica Slaven

**Sufjan Stevens Online**

**[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Asthmatic Kitty](#)**

**Timo Andres**

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Nonesuch Records](#)

**Conor Hanick**

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#)

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