

signum
CLASSICS

the swingle singers

- 1 **A Fifth of Beethoven** (feat. Shlomo) 3.09
Ludwig van Beethoven / Walter Murphy,
arr. Tobias Hug
human beatbox: Shlomo
- 2 **Spain** (I Can Recall) 6.24
Joaquin Rodrigo / Chick Corea / Al Jarreau /
Artie Maren, arr. Scott Stroman
solos: Tom, Kineret
vocal percussion: Jeremy
- 3 **Dido's Lament** 4.20
Henry Purcell, arr. Tom Bullard
lead: Johanna
human beatbox: Tobias
- 4 **It's Sand, Man!** 2.32
Ed Lewis / Jon Hendricks / Dave Lambert,
arr. Ward Swingle
lead: Kineret
vocal percussion: Jeremy
- 5 **Adagio in G Minor** 5.48
Tomaso Albinoni / Remo Giazotto,
arr. Tom Bullard
leads: Julie, Kineret, Johanna
human beatbox: Jeremy
- 6 **Bolero** 8.28
Maurice Ravel, arr. Tom Bullard
solos: Julie, Joanna, Richard, Tobias
vocal percussion: Jeremy
- 7 **Cielito Lindo** (Mexican Traditional) 4.49
Quirino Mendoza y Cortes,
arr. Itay Avramovitz
leads: Kineret, Tom
vocal percussion: everyone!
- 8 **Straighten Up and Fly Right** 5.02
Nat King Cole / Irving Mills,
arr. Bertrand Groeger
lead: Tobias
vocal percussion: Tom
- 9 **Piano Concerto No.21, 2nd mvt** 3.38
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
arr. Jonathan Rathbone
leads: Johanna, Julie
vocal percussion: Jeremy
- 10 **Gotcha** (Theme from "Starsky & Hutch") 4.01
Tom Scott, arr. Adam Riley
solos: Kineret, Johanna
vocal percussion: Jeremy
- 11 **Bachbeat** 2.36
(feat. Shlomo, MC Zani, Bellatrix,
Spitf'ya and jestar*)
Written by Shlomo and the Vocal Orchestra
with the Swingle Singers
(based on Badinerie by J.. S. Bach,
arr. Ward Swingle)
lead vocals: Joanna
- ... make it funky now

Visit www.swinglesingers.com

Design: Andrew Giles - agd@aegidius.org.uk

Cover image compiled from Shutterstock

www.signumrecords.com

SIGCD104

Beauty and the

BEATBOX

featuring
Shlomo
and the
Vocal Orchestra



What is it about the Swingle Singers in 2007 that makes us so different from previous incarnations of the group? What are we doing now that's new and innovative?

These are questions posed often by many people who encounter the group, asking what has changed in the past 44 years. We looked for the answer and found that, slowly and naturally, a new element had been filtering into our live shows that made a sonic impact and has rendered itself indispensable: vocal percussion. This album is the first Swingle Singers disc where every track contains vocal percussion or human beatboxing, not just as a component in the sound but more as a real feature to the arrangement.

With these arrangements, we wanted to showcase the vocal

talents of the group in ways that have not necessarily been shown on Swingle Singers' records before - aside from the crunchy beatboxing of Jes and Tobias, all of the singers have contributed to the vocal percussion, particularly in creating the samba band feel of the latin arrangements. In the same way that the group of the 1960s fused the music of Bach with *vocalese jazz* to create something new from two different musical eras, without changing a note; the arrangements of *Dido's Lament* and Albinoni's *Adagio* show that the group is continuing this tradition, this time mixing Baroque works with contemporary beats.

Recording in the studio has given us the opportunity to expand some of the live versions of the arrangements into their full sized equivalents. The latest arrangement from Ward Swingle, *It's Sand, Man!*, has been

rearranged into a big band score, with the full forces of sax, trumpet, trombone, guitar and rhythm section parts, in an homage to one of the group's most influential albums, *Skyliner* (1979). Ravel's *Bolero*, a huge hit with our concert audiences worldwide, with its added parts here has more of an orchestral richness, and the same technique achieves the sound of a full organ in Albinoni's *Adagio*.

Making a special appearance on this album is Shlomo, a great friend of ours, a talented musician and awe-inspiring beatboxer. After inviting him to join us for a London Jazz Festival appearance at the Vortex Jazz Club in 2006, we knew that we had to collaborate with him again. Developing the idea of the Swingle Singers being a human loop-station, Shlomo called on us to create the UK's first beatbox choir: a mixed force of singers and beatboxers, all

influencing and learning from each other, and blurring the boundary between singing and beatboxing. The Vocal Orchestra was born at the Ether Festival in London's South Bank Centre in March 2007, and is now a fully formed festival act. We're very proud to be a part of this amazing project, and hope that you enjoy listening to a little taster of what we got up to.

In recording this album we have realised that our rhythm section has become the essential foundation and structure for the vocal parts it supports: one doesn't make sense without the other. When stripped down to its bare essentials, what we are hoping to achieve with this new sound is a perfect balance of lush vocals and street beats, which we hope you will find in *Beauty and the Beatbox!*



Tobias
Hug



Kineret
Erez



Julie
Kench



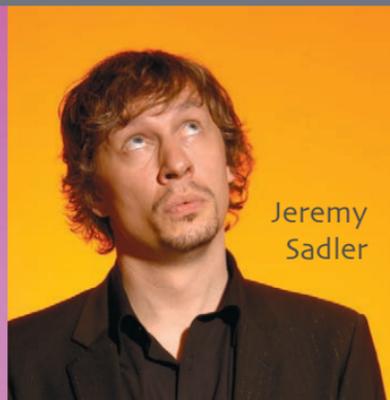
Richard
Eteson

THE SWINGLE SINGERS are an international *a cappella* phenomenon. Originally formed by American Ward Swingle in the 1960s' heyday of swung Baroque (their groundbreaking debut album *Jazz Sebastian Bach* in 1963 won the first of the group's Grammy Awards), the current group has transformed into a contemporary vocal ensemble whose repertoire and influences

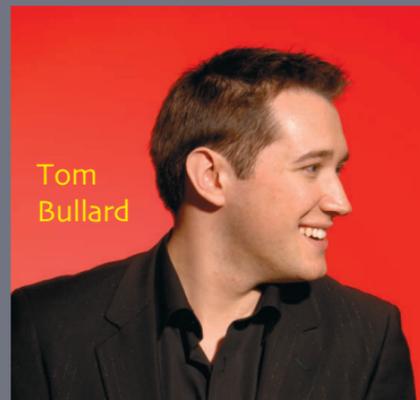
encompass classical, jazz, latin, pop, rock, and most recently, beatboxing. 'Swingle Singing' has now come to represent the Swingle Singers' unmistakable sound; incredible vocal virtuosity, blend and agility; the intimate, close-microphone technique; the quasi-instrumental sound; and the high level of entertainment the shows always bring to their audiences across the globe.



Joanna
Goldsmith



Jeremy
Sadler



Tom
Bullard



Johanna
Marshall



www.shlo.co.uk



Photograph by Mark Splinter

SHLOMO is one of the world's finest human beatboxers, meaning he has the ability to create entire songs using only his vocal chords. His pioneering live show incorporates beatboxing and drumming at the same time, as well as creating original material by beatboxing into a loop station.

The beatboxers appear by courtesy of All From The Mouth www.allfromthemouth.com

... all the sounds on this recording are made by the human voice or parts of the human body!

THE SWINGLE SINGERS

Sopranos: Joanna Goldsmith & Julie Kench
Altos: Kineret Erez & Johanna Marshall
Tenors: Tom Bullard & Richard Eteson
Basses: Tobias Hug & Jeremy Sadler

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Tom Bullard
MUSICAL ADVISOR: Ward Swingle



THE VOCAL ORCHESTRA

Shlomo featuring The Swingle Singers:
MC Zani Joanna Goldsmith & Julie Kench
Bellatrix Kineret Erez & Johanna Marshall
Spitf'ya Tom Bullard & Richard Eteson
jestar* Tobias Hug & Simon Masterton

The Swingle Singers use the AKG WMS 4000 series wireless microphone system for their live performances

www.swinglesingers.com

WITH THANKS TO:

Ward Swingle for keeping the faith and always knowing the right thing to say

Gene Krupa and **Jimmy Cobb** for camping out in Jes' mouth and giving him the swing

Shlomo, Belle, Zani and **Neil** for their good vibes and for making it funky...now!

Costa and **Holly** for manning the decks of Swingle HQ

Michael Simmons for his continued advice and friendship

Scott Stroman for awakening our Spanish flame

Adam Riley for enabling us to find our inner latin groove

Graeme Flowers and **Chris Kibble** for inspiring the 'Gotcha' improv solo

Phil Hartley for lending an ear

Simon Masterton for his patience and spittle

Claire and **Steve Long** for believing in this project

Trinity College of Music London and **Kit Venables** for the use of their studio

AKG for their generous sponsorship

Bertrand Groeger for his continued friendship with the group

Alexander L'Estrange and **Tom Bullard** for their assistance on the arrangement of *A Fifth of Beethoven*

James and **Myra Wilson** of St Stephen's Club for the use of their venue for rehearsals

All our friends and loved ones, agents and fans for their never ending support

All at **Floating Earth**, in particular **Adrian Peacock** not only for his miraculous ears but for his patience and encouragement; **Raphaël Mouterde** for his painstaking commitment and expertise in bringing this album together and above all for being French.

AND OUR ARRANGERS:

Ward Swingle founded the Swingle Singers in 1963, and ran the group for many years, retiring in 1984. He is now the group's Musical Advisor

Tom Bullard has been a member of the Swingle Singers since 2001, and Musical Director since 2004

Jonathan Rathbone was Musical Director of the Swingle Singers in the late 1980s and 90s

Scott Stroman is Head of Jazz at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Itay Avramovitz is an Israeli Salsa Pianist who trained in Cuba, and is now one of Israel's greatest latin pianists

Bertrand Groeger is the founder and director of the JazzChor Freiburg

Adam Riley is a music producer for Full Range Productions and is also one of the country's leading Latin Percussionists

Tobias Hug has been a member of the Swingle Singers since 2001, and initiated the collaboration with Shlomo. They first met whilst beatboxing in a park in 2002

Sample credits for *A Fifth of Beethoven*:

Lady Marmalade: Bob Crewe, Kenny Nolan
Stayin' Alive: Barry Gibb, Robin Gibb, Maurice Gibb

Recorded December 2006 and April 2007
Trinity College of Music Studios and Floating Earth Studios

Engineers	Mike Hatch and Raphaël Mouterde
Producers	Adrian Peacock and Raphaël Mouterde
Editing and Mixing	Raphaël Mouterde (www.lemniscat.com)
Mastering	Raphaël Mouterde and Kathy Bryan
Assistant Engineer	Declan Zapala
Assistant Producers	Tom Bullard, Tobias Hug and Jeremy Sadler also Shlomo and Spitf'ya on <i>Bachbeat</i>

Become our friend on www.myspace.com/swinglesingers