

# Emma Rawicz

## Chroma

Ivo Neame

Ant Law

Conor Chaplin

Asaf Sirkis

Immy Churchill

ACT



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ACT 9973-2

- 01 Phlox 7:01
- 02 Xanadu I 2:16
- 03 Rangwali 9:19
- 04 Xanadu II 2:48
- 05 Middle Ground 6:36
- 06 Xanadu III 1:40
- 07 Viridian 7:35
- 08 Falu 6:01

Music composed, arranged and produced by Emma Rawicz

**Emma Rawicz** tenor saxophone, flute, bass clarinet

**Ivo Neame** piano

**Ant Law** guitar

**Conor Chaplin** upright & electric bass

**Asaf Sirkis** drums, vocals

**Immy Churchill** vocals

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At the age of just 21, Emma Rawicz has sown many of the important seeds for a major career. Indeed, she can already be considered a part of the wave of Young British Jazz which has been making its mark world-wide. The North Devon-born saxophonist has led her band at festivals in Turkey, Israel and France, and single-handedly negotiated and managed a major UK tour.

Emma Rawicz's interest in music came early: she started composing for piano and violin at seven. Jazz and the saxophone came later, at fifteen. At Chetham's in Manchester, one of the UK's top music schools, she made astonishingly rapid progress on the instrument. While her musical enthusiasms are broad, "Chroma" shows the imprint of tenor saxophonist/composers who found their own way: Joe Henderson and Wayne Shorter.

The album title "Chroma" ('colour' or 'paint' in Greek) is very significant: Emma Rawicz is a synesthete. She always involuntarily and simultaneously experiences music through a second sensory pathway, colour. All of the tracks, with one exception, are named after relatively little-known colours. The band is mostly made up of the kind of in-demand UK players whom one finds in many contexts: Asaf Sirkis, Ivo Neame and Conor Chaplin have already appeared on ACT albums: Sirkis with Gwilym Simcock, and Neame and Chaplin in bands led by Marius Neset. Guitarist Ant Law has made his mark too, both with his own albums and with his work with Tim Garland. The less-known name on "Chroma" (for the time being) is Emma's friend and direct contemporary, vocalist Immy Churchill, another rising star. The musical empathy between them is one of the joys of this disc. Of her role as bandleader, Rawicz says: "For me it is essential to embrace the other musicians' personalities and to let them be themselves." The album has a strong thread running through it, with three very different readings of the same tune, "Xanadu". The album ends on an optimistic tone with "Falu", in which altissimo, multiphonics and ferocious finger-work stand above all as an emphatic declaration of Rawicz's saxophone prowess.

"Chroma" is about colours...and much, much more. It is a major statement and a deeply satisfying album from a star on the rise.

Sebastian Scotney, London Jazz News

I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has supported me on the road to making this album, particularly my incredible band: Ivo, Asaf, Ant and Conor, as well as Immy for contributing brilliant vocals to three of the tracks. Also huge thanks to Mum and Dad, David Preston, Scottie Thompson, Nick Smart, Gareth Lockrane, Pete Churchill, Nikki Iles, Tom Cawley and countless other wonderful people for inspiring and encouraging me along the way. I can say with certainty that this album wouldn't have been made without any of these people and I am so grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way! I am also very thankful to ACT for believing in the album, and thrilled to be starting what I hope to be a long and exciting journey with them!

Enjoy listening,  
Emma

Music composed, arranged and produced by Emma Rawicz  
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Mixed by Sonny Johns  
Mastered by Klaus Scheuermann

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Photo by Gregor Hohenberg



