JOSE DIAS
PRESS KIT

guitarist + composer + improviser.



josediasmusic.com

BIOGRAPHY

IMPROVISATION. COMPOSITION. AND THE MOVING IMAGE.

José Dias is a Portuguese guitarist, composer and improviser based in Manchester, UK, whose work moves between contemporary jazz, experimental music and the moving image. Drawing on influences extending well beyond music, particularly cinema, literature and the visual arts, he has developed an approach to improvisation in which texture, narrative and musical interaction play a central role.

Over a career spanning several decades, Dias has performed internationally in settings ranging from solo guitar to trios, quartets and larger ensembles, collaborating with musicians from different generations, backgrounds and musical traditions. His recordings reflect this breadth, from explorations of contemporary jazz and composition to collaborations with artists including Italian guitarist Francesca Naibo, British experimental composer Christopher Hobbs and Brazilian pianist and composer Ana Luísa Fridman.

A particularly significant strand of his work is After Silence, a series of recordings emerging from his long-standing practice of creating improvised music for silent cinema. Its first volume, released by Clean Feed in 2019, received considerable critical recognition. Alongside his recording and performing activities, Dias has created music for film, theatre, animation and contemporary dance, approaching the relationship between sound and image as an open-ended creative dialogue rather than conventional accompaniment.

Dias is also an internationally active researcher and author, whose publications include Jazz in Europe: Networking and Negotiating Identities (Bloomsbury, 2019) and the co-edited Women and Jazz (Routledge, 2025). He is currently Assistant Professor in Music at Coventry University.



CRITICAL RECOGNITION

"An introspective masterpiece"
— All About Jazz, reviewing After Silence Vol. 1 (2019)

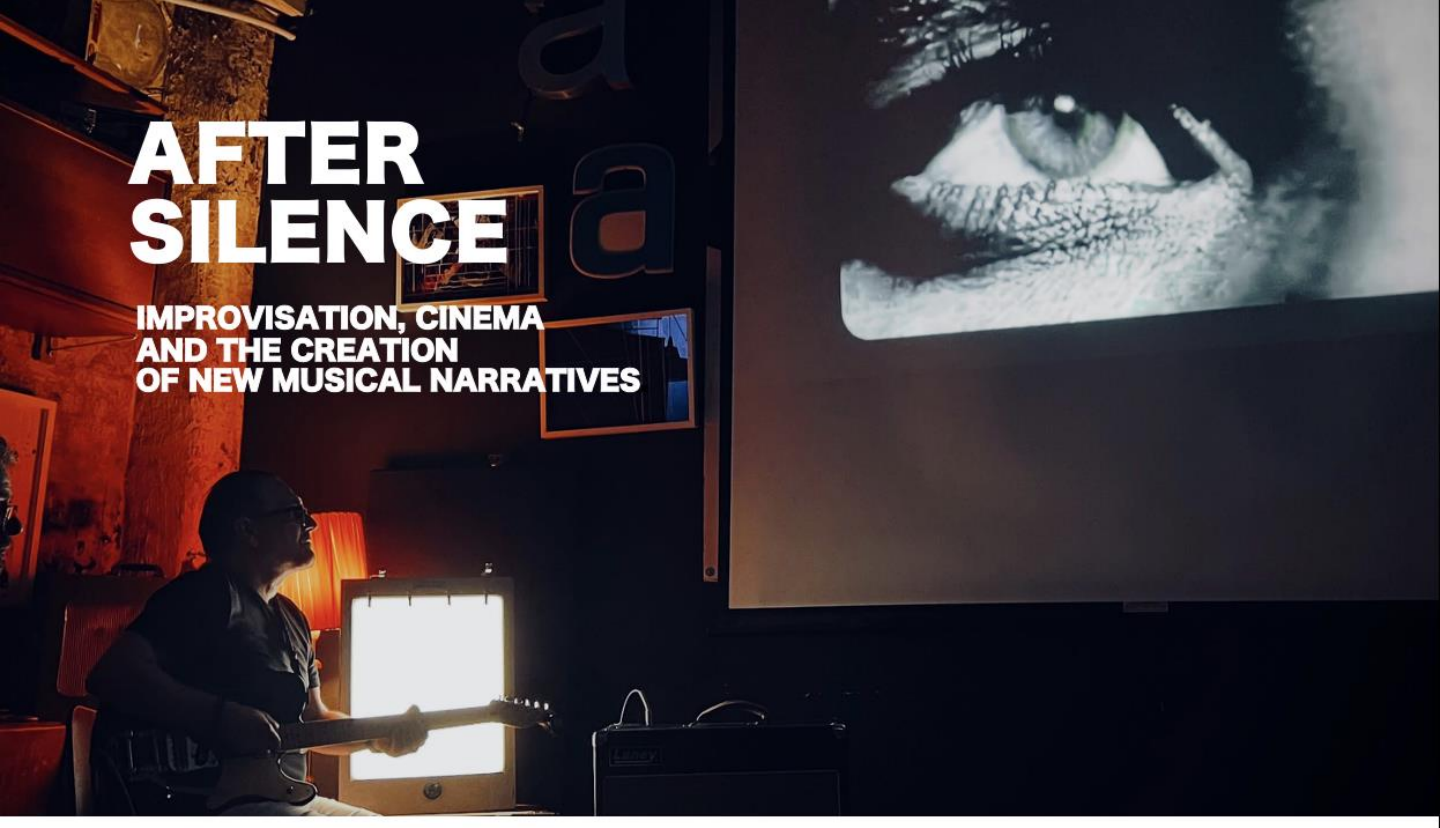
"José Dias found his voice"
— Bodyspace (2019)

"A rare poetic sense of economy"
— Clean Feed, After Silence Vol. 1 (2019)

FEATURED IN DOWNBEAT

José Dias' European Ideal (2019)
An artist profile exploring Dias's approach to improvisation, the relationship between his musical practice and academic research, and his perspective on contemporary European jazz.

Read the DownBeat feature



AFTER SILENCE

IMPROVISATION, CINEMA AND THE CREATION OF NEW MUSICAL NARRATIVES

After Silence is an ongoing project by guitarist and composer José Dias, exploring the creative possibilities of improvisation in dialogue with silent cinema. Emerging from his long-standing practice of performing live soundtracks, the project treats film not simply as something to be accompanied, but as a starting point for new musical narratives.

Rather than illustrating the action on screen, Dias and his collaborators respond to the films' visual language, atmosphere and experimental possibilities, developing music that can also exist independently of the images. Composition and collective improvisation play complementary roles, creating a dialogue in which both musical and cinematic narratives acquire new meanings.

The series began with After Silence Vol. 1 (Clean Feed, 2019), inspired by the experimental short films of Man Ray, whose surrealist imagery provided the starting point for a distinctive musical exploration. Described by All About Jazz as “an introspective masterpiece”, the album received considerable international critical recognition.

After Silence Vol. 2 (2024) turned to Germaine Dulac's La Souriante Madame Beudet (1923), a pioneering work of feminist and avant-garde cinema. The recording continued the project's exploration of the relationship between sound and image, engaging with the film's psychological tensions, domestic setting and subversive narrative.

With a third volume in preparation, After Silence continues to develop as a series of encounters with cinematic works, filmmakers and musical collaborators, each opening up new possibilities for improvisation.

RECORDINGS)



After Silence Vol. 1 (2019)
Man Ray — Experimental short films



After Silence Vol. 2 (2024)
Germaine Dulac — La Souriante Madame Beudet (1923)

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY













AN EVOLVING DISCOGRAPHY OF COMPOSITION, IMPROVISATION AND COLLABORATION.

José Dias's discography reflects a sustained engagement with contemporary jazz, experimental music and collective improvisation. From his own ensembles to collaborative recordings with musicians across Europe and beyond, these releases document an artistic practice shaped by musical dialogue, experimentation and an openness to different creative approaches.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

STRANGE BIRDS (2025)
José Dias / Ana Fridman / Joshua Vadiveloo / Johnny Hunter

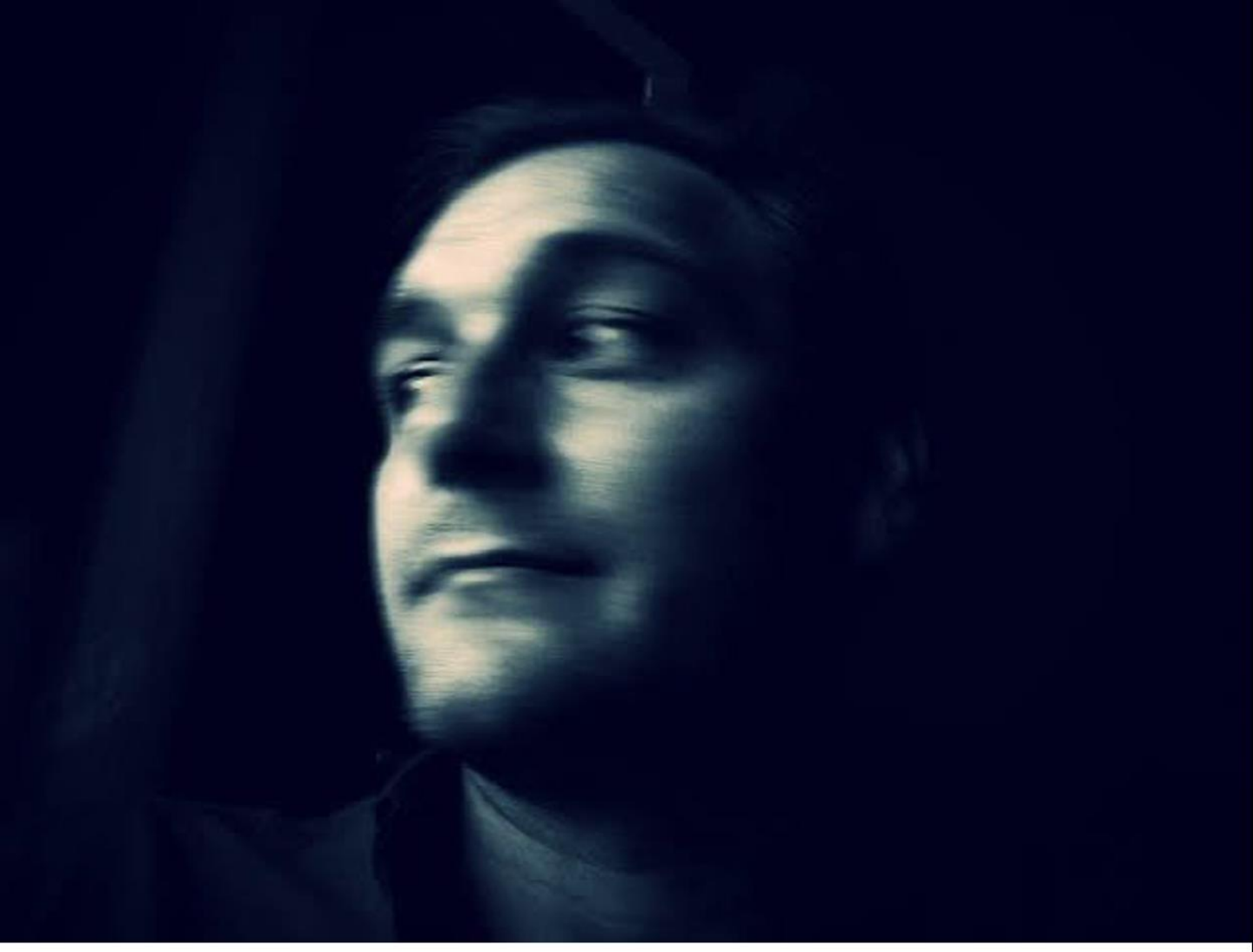
AFTER SILENCE VOL.1 (2019)
José Dias — Clean Feed Records

LIVE AT SMUP (2019)
José Dias / Francisco Andrade / Gonçalo Prazeres / Rui Pereira

ALMOST LIKE A SONG (2023)
José Dias / Christopher Hobbs

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN (2016)
José Dias / Moisés Fernandes / Pedro Pinto / Rui Pereira

MAGENTA (2013)
José Dias / Nuno Oliveira / Alexandre Alves



LISTEN & WATCH

Selected recordings, live performances and audiovisual projects are available at:
www.josediasmusic.com

High-resolution publicity photographs, biographies and additional promotional materials are available on request.

PRESS & BOOKINGS

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