Artist: **HIDDEN ORCHESTRA**  
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On 11 November, **Hidden Orchestra** will present their new album **Creaks: Bonus, Live & Remixes** with their previously unreleased tracks, remixes and reworked compositions from the soundtrack to the award-winning platform game Creaks by the Amanita Design studio. The album is a follow-up to their record Creaks OST from 2020, which – same as the new album – was released by the Czech label Minority Records.

Hidden Orchestra is a project of the British composer, multi-instrumentalist and producer Joe Acheson. He works with various musical influences and invites a diverse range of artists to join in the production, only to create his “hidden orchestra”.

*“So much great music was made for Creaks that it all just couldn’t fit on the original record. Even the fans noticed that, after all, they were missing several tracks from the game on the original soundtrack. It was Joe himself who came up with the idea at the beginning of the year. Originally, it was supposed to have been a collection of bonus tracks, but gradually, the concept took on a life of its own and resulted in a bigger and more interesting record,”* Jakub Dvorský, the founder of Amanita Design, says.

Creaks: Bonus, Live & Remixes brings seven previously unreleased tracks from the original Creaks soundtrack, two extensive reworked versions for a live band and seven remixes from diverse artists such as Floex, Poppy Ackroyd, Ben Lukas Boysen or ZKA4T.

*“When the live band came back to playing live in Prague in May 2022, we developed a couple of the Creaks into new live reinterpretations, and I found myself wanting to share these new versions too, after we had happened to make a really nice recording of them at a show in Luxembourg shortly after the Prague concert. And then we thought it would be nice to include a Floex remix on the package, as it was through him that I was first introduced to Amanita Design, and this made me realise the potential there might be in getting more people to revisit and reinterpret the material. So ultimately it led to the idea of combining these bonus, live and remix tracks into one follow-up album,”* Acheson himself describes the origin of Creaks: Bonus, Live & Remixes.

The colourful sound world of Hidden Orchestra, which combines the influences of electronics, folk or post-rock, is enriched by experimental dance techno on Creaks: Bonus, Live & Remixes, as well as by gently plucked ambient modern classical sequences and even by spurts of bass clarinet free-jazz. Artificial intelligence has also played a part in the resulting work.

*“Joe got on really well with the FMOD instrument that allowed him to create music that’s both adaptive and generative. For example, when the player is scratching his head over one of the riddles and he succeeds in moving forward in its solution, the game will elegantly hint at this by a subtle change in the musical accompaniment,”* clarifies Dvorský.

*“I completely reinvented my working process for this project – so the overall challenge was very hard, as I wanted to combat listener fatigue by keeping the music really fresh. I found a way to do this using software designed for game audio, and I had to come up with a lot of different new composition techniques to create music that could constantly randomise its arrangement. So all of this was difficult – in a way, creating the music for each level of the game became a puzzle in itself. I had to find ways to map the structure of each piece to the different stages of each level, and then ways to keep the music constantly evolving, but also it had to be able to seamlessly shift to a new section at any time, in a natural musical manner. An unexpected benefit of all this was that I actually found that I was able to use the AI, once I had programmed it, to create arrangements that I often found more interesting and effective than the ones I would have created myself,”* Acheson adds.

The live versions of the compositions Bridges and Three Islands were recorded in May 2022 in the Luxembourgish monastery space Neimënster with the current line-up of the Hidden Orchestra consisting of Joe Acheson on the bass and electronics, Jamie Graham on the drums, the clarinettist Jack McNeil and the cellist Rebecca Knight. The studio mix was created by the engineer Tim Southorn. In the newest incarnation of the Hidden Orchestra, the emphasis is moving from a precise replica of studio tracks to focus on energy and emotions of the given material.

The game Creaks received both the award Czech Game of 2020 and Czech Game of the Year in the Audiovisual Design category, the Anifilm 2021 award for the best visual art in a computer game, the CEEGA 2020 award for games from Central and Eastern Europe for the best visual design. Creaks was nominated for the prestigious Golden Joystick Awards for best independent game and it received two nominations at the Brazilian gaming festival BIG Festival for best visual design and best story.

The compositions from Creaks will also be played at the concert of Hidden Orchestra at the EFG London Jazz Festival in the London Queen Elizabeth Hall on 20 November.

**Creaks: Bonus, Live & Remixes** is released in digital form only, the currently sold out soundtrack **Creaks (2020)** will be reissued in the first half of the next year.

**All the remixers on this release have some tangential connection with the game:**

**Floex (Tomáš Dvořák)**, an author of numerous wonderful soundtracks for **Amanita Design**

**Poppy Ackroyd**, a live band member who also plays some of the violin parts on the OST

**Ben Lukas Boysen**, a Berlin-based soundtrack composer whose work Joe admires

**ZKA4T (Matouš Godík)**, the sound designer of the game and masterer of many Hidden records

**chiefko (Lukas Kunce)**, the person upon whom the drawing of the main character was loosely based

**Hidden Orchestra**, with Joe on self-remixing duties once again

**Tommy Perman**, whose band FOUND was among the first Joe remixed, and whose sentient orchestrion project [Cybraphon](https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/science-and-technology/cybraphon/) had some influence upon the music-boxy paintings in the game and the [Creaksbox](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar7gU8Y2Klg) app.