

# musicians on the move

# MUSIKCENTRUM ÖST

## GIRILAL BAARS

**Girilal Baars main interest lies in absorbing elements of tradition and creating his own interpretations of these. The stories told by old folk songs can be seen as curious documents from bygone times, but the human desires and fears that drive them remain very close to our present day. The intersection between our common past and our complex present is where Girilal likes to create his songs and arrangements. Accompanying his voice and songs Girilal plays doshpulur (Tuvan string instrument), saz, guitars, mandolin, theremin and electronics.**



**Girilal Baars** - born in Moscow and of Dutch and Indian origin - is a composer and performer. Voice is his main passion and instrument and he performs solo, with the **Girilal Baars Trio**, and with the vocal quartet **Äijä**. Girilal interprets and composes around old songs and traditions from many different regions, including Russia, Finland and Tuva. Tuvan throat-singing has been a part of his repertoire ever since his first visit there in 2001.

Starting with his purchase of a theremin in 1998, Girilal has increasingly worked with electronic experimental music. In 2008 he wrote and performed *Litanies in Zero Kelvin* for voice, theremin and electronics. Combining old folk songs with live electronics and the sensibilities of contemporary experimental music was a natural development, having in a sense pursued parallel careers in acoustic ethnic music and experimental electronics for the better part of a decade. *Litanies in Zero Kelvin* was selected for the Nordic Music Days in Oslo in 2009 and has been downloaded more than 20,000 times since its electronic release on Clinical Archives in 2010.

Aside from regular performances, in 2011 Girilal completed a small solo-tour in Russia, wrote the music and toured with the dance performance *Kuu Nukkuu*, wrote and recorded the music for the film *After Life* and wrote and performed the commissioned work *Lykanthropos*, based on the old Swedish Ballad *Varulven*. Other commissioned works include *Kallocaïn – an Opera for Two Voices*, *A Clash of Cymbals*, *Gracing Space* and *Light Life*.

In 2009, the male vocal quartet **Äijä**, of which Girilal is a founding member, released the CD *Jet-Black*. The CD was nominated for the Finnish Ethno-EMMA award in 2010. The Regional Council of Uppsala awarded Girilal their two-year artist grant for 2010-2011. He received a compositional grant from STIM in 2010 and has been supported on various occasions by the Swedish Arts Grant and other funding organizations. Girilal is a member of the Society of Swedish Composers (FST).

### Tracks enclosed on USB:

1. Staryi Zhuravlj
2. V Moskve, v Moskve
3. Excerpt from *Litanies in Zero Kelvin*

### Contact through artist:

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