

## **MAURICIO VELASIERRA**

**'Rodar'**

**Release Date: 26 September 2011**

**Label: Lotus Arts Box LABOX02**

**Distributor: Cadiz**

*"Mauricio is a truly amazing virtuoso and wonderful communicator, as exemplified on his album 'Rodar'. Here he takes traditional forms to a completely new place, reinterpreting and reinventing them in his own original manner."*

Paul Sartin (Bellowhead)

From the age of five **Mauricio Velasierra** carried with him a series of recorders that he played incessantly and according to his mother, learned to whistle before he could talk. However, it was a trip to a San Alejo market in Medellín (where he lived until he was seventeen) that sealed the young Mauricio's future as a flautist. It was here that he picked up his first flute, a pvc plastic kena. He was aged seven.

From that first flute that he bought as a seven year-old, the melody-led beauty of traditional Andean music has fascinated Mauricio. Entirely self-taught on the kena and sikus, he now makes most of the flutes that he plays. It is hard to believe, listening to his second album, **Rodar**, that some of these flutes – in particular the Mohoseños – is up to 2 metres long.

**Rodar** is a beautiful album full of deep Afro-Colombian grooves, thrusting strumming guitar patterns as well as orchestral interaction between cello and double bass, all of which support skilful improvisations. **Rodar** draws on many inspirations from Malian hunter's music (*Cazador*) to Arabic and Irish musics (*Onamatapeya*), to jazz (*Pathology*) and Gabriel Garcia Marques' character Melquiades from 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' in *Melquiades*. This is also an album about stories and each track tells a tale – for example *Limonero* came about after Mauricio met a man selling lemons in Columbia. He was desperately ill, but still came out day after day to sell his lemons.

With a childhood steeped in traditional Andean music, Mauricio's music exposes the largely undiscovered styles and rhythms found in the Andean highland region, but it is also highly influenced by musicians such as Wayne Shorter and Dave Holland, as well as well as Malian Kora Player Toumani Diabate and Latin- American legendary group Inti-Illimani.

### **LIVE DATES 2011**

<b>13 Oct</b>	Darbuka
<b>17 Nov</b>	Rich Mix
<b>24 Nov</b>	The Forge

**[www.mvelasierra.com](http://www.mvelasierra.com)**

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