

Rhiannon Giddens' latest album *there is no Other*, recorded with Italian multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi, is set for May 3 release on Nonesuch Records. Produced by Joe Henry and tracked over an intensely productive five-day period in Dublin, Ireland, *there is no Other* is at once a condemnation of "othering" and a celebration of the spread of ideas, connectivity, and shared experience.

Tracing the overlooked movement of sounds from Africa and the Arabic world and their influence on European and American music, *there is no Other* illuminates the universality of music and the commonality of the human experience. It primarily features only Giddens and Turrisi playing one or two instruments together. The album comprises a mix of original songs penned by Giddens and a diverse set of interpretations ranging from Ola Belle Reed's "I'm Gonna Write Me a Letter," and Oscar Brown, Jr's "Brown Baby" to the Italian traditional "Pizzica di San Vito."

Giddens recently told the *Irish Times*: "It's all about movement, for both of us...movements of human beings and how we affect each other. If you just look at our range of instruments, where they've come from and how they've travelled across the world, it's pretty amazing. The way that both of us approach music is very similar because we're both educated about where the music is coming from. But when it comes to playing, we're both just playing what we feel."

*there is no Other* was recorded with little editing and overdubbing. Giddens sings and plays minstrel banjo, octave violin, and viola. Turrisi plays piano, accordion, frame drum, tamburello, lute, cello banjo, daf, and colascione. They are joined on four songs by Kate Ellis on cello and viola. The array of instruments reveal the sonic ties that bind between African, Arabic, European, and American cultures.

Giddens and Turrisi will debut a number of songs from the album at the Big Ears Festival in Knoxville, TN this Friday, March 22. She is also a panelist at the festival, and the ballet she and Turrisi scored, *Lucy Negro Redux*, will be performed twice at Big Ears as well. (Giddens and Turrisi play the score live on stage. *Lucy Negro Redux* was recently deemed a "miracle" by the *New York Times*.)

Giddens and Turrisi have also announced an extensive 2019 tour; see below for a full list of dates.

Pre-order the album and watch the "I'm On My Way" video here: <http://smarturl.it/thereisnoother>. Nonesuch store pre-orders include an exclusive, limited-edition signed print. A deluxe vinyl edition will be released in the fall with details to come.

Rhiannon Giddens is a celebrated artist who excavates the past to reveal bold and candid truths about our present. A MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient, she has performed for the Obama's at the White House and acted in two seasons of the hit television series *Nashville*. She has been profiled by *CBS Sunday Morning*, the *New York Times*, and NPR's *Fresh Air*, among others. Her acclaimed solo albums,

*Tomorrow is My Turn* (along with the EP *Factory Girl*, produced by T Bone Burnett) and *Freedom Highway*, received 3 GRAMMY nominations; her work with the Carolina Chocolate Drops (which she co-founded) received a Grammy in 2010. Giddens is also featured in Ken Burns' *Country Music* series coming to PBS this fall and will perform at concerts tied to the series in Nashville and New York City. *Songs of Our Native Daughters*, a collaborative album featuring Giddens that tells the stories of historic black womanhood and survival, was released on Smithsonian Folkways last month to rave reviews.

Italian multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi defies easy categorization. Called “a musical alchemist” by the *Irish Times*, Turrisi is a Turin-born musician whose Dublin base reflects his global sensibilities. With his unique ability to fold early music, pan-Mediterranean modal melodies, and European flavored jazz into a single repertoire, Turrisi has developed a musical style that crisscrosses cultures and forges musical alliances that are, at once, old and familiar and startlingly brand new. He has performed and recorded with Bobby McFerrin, jazz icon Dave Liebman, early music group l'Arpeggiata, contemporary ensemble Bang on a Can, Irish sean-nós singer Roisin El Safty, and tarantella specialist Lucilla Galeazzi.