

Misha Mishenko - Metanoia (2015)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Decadance* 5:20 2 *Forest In My Head* 5:33 3 *Oxygen In My Lungs* 6:20 4 *River In My Viens* 3:55 5 *Mountains In My Bones* 5:27 6 *Tundra* 4:59 7 *Entrance To The Rabbit Hole* 3:22 8 *White Ghost* 19:14 Misha Mishenko - Piano Dasha Fisher - Violin Misha Talanov - Violin Ekaterina Volkomurova - Cello

The Moscow composer Misha Mishenko is enjoying increasing public attention. Mishenko views his own restrained persona against a humbling backdrop: he speaks of constant inspiration from "the [landscape of the] Far North with its boundless valleys, frigid pure streams, and dormant volcanoes..." That final noun takes us away from Russia to the peaks of Iceland, a place often referenced in Mishenko's catalog.

In brief, Mishenko sees the primary appeal of his own material in "a move away from excess and wordiness. I mean movement in the general direction of minimalism. I personally think that art should be simple, genuine, and beautiful." There is, he also believes, a local reason to champion such transitions towards minimalism; Russia's history has been dangerously grand. "What's unique about Russian music? Our classical school is full of anthems and marches. After that [during the Soviet period], half the country was imprisoned and that [awful scale of injustice] became the beginning of Russian 'chanson' [i.e., of criminal songs]."

Mishenko instead finds a quieter, less assuming national spirit elsewhere. "I was sitting in a church on Moscow's Bolshaya Dmitrovka and started thinking how enormous Russia is. I'm Russian myself and I have a Russian outlook on the world, too. Why shouldn't I try and emphasize that same view within global culture?" A profoundly modest philosophy hopes within its minorism to discern bigger, better social principles. The logic of Somnipedia's artwork reappears: smallness is occasionally home to a sweeping imagination. ---farfrommoscow.com

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