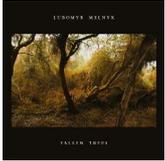


Lubomyr Melnyk - Melnyk: Fallen Trees (2018)

Written by bluesever

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A1 Requiem For A Fallen Tree A2 Son Of Parasol A3 Barcarolle Fallen Trees B1.1 Part I: Preamble B1.2 Part II: Existence B1.3 Part III: Apparition B1.4 Part IV: They Are Down B1.5 Part V: Not Forgotten David Allred - Voices Lubomyr Melnyk - Composer, Piano, Primary Artist, Voices Anne Müller - Cello Hatis Noit - Composer, Voices Robert Rath - Art Direction, Producer, Voices

Following his somewhat underwhelming major-label debut *Illirion*, which felt like an airbrushed greeting card-ization of his innovative style, pianist Lubomyr Melnyk returned to Erased Tapes with his 2018 release *Fallen Trees*. Inspired by train voyages through deep European forests, the album is vast and detailed, but there's a rhythmic drive which the listener's mind hooks onto like a cable car. Pieces like "Son of Parasol" can be likened to minimalism because of their hypnotic repetition and gradual change, but this feels much more complex and involved. And on pieces like the marvelous "Barcarolle," there are heavy servings of heart-warming sentimentality, only enhanced by Melnyk's technical prowess. "Requiem for a Fallen Tree" features the otherworldly vocals of Hatis Noit, who perfectly conveys a feeling of being whisked away, just as Melnyk's piano playing does. The second half of the album is taken up by the five-part "Fallen Trees" suite, which sounds like an entire cross-country journey boiled down to 21 minutes. Centerpiece "Apparition" is made all the more breathtaking due to the presence of cellist Anne Müller and guest vocalist David Allred. *Fallen Trees* is an excellent example of Melnyk's artful and accessible form of music, which never sacrifices heart for sheer technical ability. ---Paul Simpson, AllMusic Review

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