

Lorenzo Masotto – Aeolian Processes (2017)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 19 June 2019 15:05 -

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1 Arctic Summer 3:18 2 Space Flowers 4:23 3 Drone 4:57 4 My Great-Grandmother Lived In The Mountains 3:58 5 A Tree In The Snow 3:18 6 Geyser 4:04 7 When The City Sleeps 3:32 8 Travelling To Alaska 4:04 9 Repeater 4:56 10 Aeolian Processes 4:44 11 Desert 5:21 Lorenzo Masotto - Solo Performer

“By the moment my hands touch the piano and I begin to compose, my conscience starts a journey, leaving my body. During its wandering shows me pictures of the places it encounters, creating a sort of connection between my unconscious and my fingers. The colors, the landscapes, the faces of the people it photographs along the way are so clear in my mind to allow me to portray those images, using only the sound that a piano can paint.”

So says Italian pianist Lorenzo Masotto who’s most recent release “Aeolian Processes” came out on the Russian label Dronarivm on March 17. This follows releases on labels such as Preserved Sound and Alfa music.

Aeolian Processes is defined as “pertaining to wind activity in the geology and weather and specifically the wind’s ability to shape the Earth (or other planets)”

Although I have not heard Masotto’s two previous releases and cannot compare this release to them (nor ascertain if the music matches the title of the album), what is striking is the use of electronic elements and instrumentation that compliment the solo piano. Such is the skill that this could sit comfortably in the Erased Tapes catalog.

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Lorenzo who plays in the prog/post-rock band La Machere di Clara while also making music for film while teaching piano and composition and directing an all male choir. On “Aeolian Processes” he also performs all the music with the deftness of Iran’s Porya Hatami great work in the mastering process.

The album starts with “Arctic Summer” which starts with Piano and a rich backing of layered electronics, looped material, some type of strings that builds as the track progresses and gives the listener a taste of what to expect. This is not just a solo Modern Classical release. The electronic element is brought to the fore on “Space Flowers” with it being a more central element that the piano compliments rather than vice versa. The elements come and go and serve to highlight each other. “Drone” adds an almost Jazz/ almost Breakbeat percussion into the mix with multi layering of piano, electronics and some indistinguishable vocal parts and is a true highlight of the release.

His work in the previously mentioned Prog/Post-Rock band seems to influence tracks like “My Great Grandmother Lived in the Mountains” (which reminds me of early Pivot), “Aeolian Processes” and “Repeater” reminding me of film work like the Exorcist theme or if Tangerine Dream did their soundtrack work on piano as opposed to a wall of synths.

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