

Ken Elkinson - Music For Commuting Volumes 1-6

(August Son Productions AS-50551/2/3-2)

This is something of a mammoth proposition to listen to - three CDs of near full length content and twenty tracks per CD. That takes some serious commitment by the listener... But it's well worth the investment. What we have here is a world of electronic music possibilities, composer/pianist Ken Elkinson has traded in his usual piano and brought out the synthesisers and created sixty soundscapes of varying lengths and tonalities. Generally mellow, spacious in sonic density and spacious in the sense of being 'out there'. These aren't the expected dissonances or avant-garde screeches of the art house installation, each track has a distinct melody, multi-layered yet not too complex. The first CD contains Volumes one and two, ten tracks each volume, and here the music is the most simple, basic melodies stretched out into drone like excursions. On the second CD [Volume three and four] the melodies are more sophisticated and perhaps the pop sensibility comes to the fore. The final CD [Volume five and six] goes even further with the music here being more complex, atmospheric and, yes, spacey. For me the music is reminiscent of 70s era Brian Eno and his discrete albums such as Music For Films and Apollo: Atmospheres & Soundtracks, and the atmospheric Tangerine Dream albums of the same period when they were signed to Virgin Records. The volumes are also subtitled Monday through to Friday, while Volume Six is called Beyond. If you copied these to your MP3 player with each day as a separate folder then they could provide you with a soundtrack for your commuting or just easing the stress out of your system. I can't really single out favourite tracks yet, these are albums that will unravel with each successive play, but there is some wonderful music here and its sonorous charms will repay exploration. The set of three CDs is available as a box set with a glossy booklet or as separate albums and can be ordered from the website below or from iTunes, Amazon and other music distribution websites.

For more information about this artist, album and availability visit:

www.kenelkinson.com

- John Peters