

# allmusic

## **Ken Elkinson**

### *Cue* (2006)

While Oscar Peterson can dazzle getting the listener to pay special attention to his spirited and entertaining technique, Ken Elkinson chooses to use the piano to paint soft pastels, each addition to his catalog combing the depths of this soothing and mellow music with a restrained and methodical passion. Opening track & "Porteños" refers to the "people of the port", or as one public domain website puts it "people born in the Argentine city of Buenos Aires." It is dramatic, perhaps a good soundtrack for the TV show Days Of Our Lives.

The album *Cue* gives the world twelve one-word titles in addition to the thirty-three compositions recorded previously, and they are along the same lines as the earlier moody, meditative music. While the previous collections contained all Elkinson originals with only a Jimi Hendrix title entering the mix, this CD concludes with the artist collaborating with Tom Freund on a Freund original which employs vocals in a repertoire which was previously all instrumental. The guest singer's limited range works in this context as the nearly spoken "Beautiful Sadness" does provide a nice change of pace and is itself reincarnated as the song was originally written for guitar accompaniment.

Everything is pretty laid back with the slight exception of "Firefly", which is more commanding in style compared to the other eleven ethereal selections. After the 1997 debut, *Midnight Conversation*, and the *Revelry* release in 2000, Elkinson waited three to four years before giving the world *Opal* with another couple of years until *Cue*. The four "New Age" discs over a span of a decade have a consistency in both cover art and production. The twelve page booklet included with this disc contains poetry, insight into the artist's personality, favorite charitable causes and other information pertinent to the music.

- Joe Viglione