

MUSICWATCH

#13 – January 2010

Ken Elkinson - Link (August Son AS-6117-7)

I think this is pianist Ken Elkinson's fifth album of self compositions - certainly the second received here for review, after his last album Cue. It would be trite and unhelpful to simply just say more of the same, but the fact is that Mr Elkinson has a way with creating very listenable mini soundscapes with his piano that veer more towards the 'new age' spectrum rather than jazz. Link contains a dozen tracks, each one a near perfect capsulation of what melodic wonders can be achieved on the acoustic piano. In many ways I imagine this to be more like the classical music of Chopin or Debussy [and other piano-focused classical composers] in the sense that the music is not derived from blues or jazz influences. Try Dry Lake Bed to see what I mean. The music on this album also has a strong academic feel to it, created from strict thought processes rather than emotional ones. I could be wrong, of course, but the music does have a mathematical mood to it. While Link isn't that different to Cue, I'm not sure that is a bad thing as Mr Elkinson has a way with a tune that is attractive to the ear. I suggest you also try out Tide, 1:14 AM/Nothing, and several of the other tracks. Link is definitely an album to listen to and savour, rather like a glass of fine wine.