

## E-Mix - CD REVIEWS PAGE

August, 1999

E-MIX is the Electronic Music Information eXchange, covering synthesizer, experimental and progressive music through CD reviews, artists interviews, concert reviews, hardware and software equipment assessments and more.

The scoring system is as follows;

- \*\*\*\*\* Five Stars - an essential purchase
- \*\*\*\* Four Stars - an excellent album of its kind
- \*\*\* Three Stars - good for those interested in this specific style
- \*\* Two Stars - very uninspired, for extreme enthusiasts only
- \* One Star - avoid!

### KEN ELKINSON "Midnight Conversation"

August Son AS61922-2 (10 tracks, 47.16 \*\*\*)

It's difficult to review a solo piano album, particularly when the inspiration behind some of the tracks isn't particularly clear. In fact Ken Elkinson credits various friends for their help in naming the songs on the album, which seems to indicate the tracks were composed rather spontaneously and the meaning behind their content considered later.

The titles are inspired though - "Waves" perfectly captures the churning bass chords of the piece, while "I Watch Her Sleep" is touching, though with some less restful discordant tones in the left hand.

The piano tone throughout is very smooth and rather distant, with apparently a faint touch of chorusing on some tracks, and there's not much in the way of top end.

This is the case right up to "A New Day", which closes the album with a restrained feeling of optimism - it would be good as a piece for a TV weepie - and overall the album has something to offer not so much to those who are looking for flashy technique or jazz innovations, but to anyone who enjoys gentle lyricism and simple melodic material.

- Mark Jenkins

August Son Productions, PO Box 6105, New York, NY, USA  
Tel. 001 212 828 7012  
<http://augustson.home.mindspring.com>  
[kene@juno.com](mailto:kene@juno.com)