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· [News](#) · [Gallery](#)review board: [View all reviews](#)[Submit your own reviews](#)**The Sounding Board by R J Lannan**

RJ Lannan is the reviewer for The Sounding Board.

Other reviews from The Sounding Board by R J Lannan:

- *Winter* by Kevin Kendle, reviewed by RJ Lannan on 3/30/2012
- *Music For Commuting [Volumes 1-6]* by Ken Elkinson, reviewed by RJ Lannan on 3/30/2012
- *The Underliving* by Priscilla Hernández, reviewed by RJ Lannan on 2/10/2012

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**Music For Commuting
[Volumes 1-6]**
By Ken Elkinson
Label: August Son
Productions
Released 1/4/2011

**Music For Commuting [Volumes 1-6] tracks**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: unfolding | 31. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: life support |
| 2. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: move over,
sunrise | 32. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: abundance |
| 3. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: renewal | 33. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: daughters |
| 4. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: eventual
Morning | 34. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: john hughes |
| 5. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: miles | 35. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: ireland
(imagined) |
| 6. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: submerge | 36. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: solitude |
| 7. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: glass House | 37. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: chasing
twilight |
| 8. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: incandescence | 38. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: kyoto
(actual) |
| 9. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: the window west | 39. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: the
unforgiving fog |
| 10. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: soleri | 40. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: teasing
trees |
| 11. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
squint | 41. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: kt-22 |
| 12. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: far rockaway
(gulls) | 42. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
changes from the sea |
| 13. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: radiate | 43. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
locusts |
| 14. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: something more | 44. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
spheres |
| 15. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: silver maple | 45. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
paper kaleidoscope |
| 16. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: violins/escape | 46. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
spiraling |
| 17. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: infinity | 47. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
solenko |
| 18. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: enigma | 48. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
goodbye, richard |
| 19. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: well lit | 49. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
past life |
| 20. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: riverside park | 50. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
diffraction |
| 21. VOLUMES 1 & 2
[monday tuesday]: plateau | 51. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
lancer |
| 22. VOLUMES 3 & 4
[wednesday thursday]: stephanie
seymour | 52. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
dirty breeze |
| 23. VOLUMES 3 & 4 | |

[wednesday thursday]: serena	53. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
24. VOLUMES 3 & 4	4 a.m. (bright lights)
[wednesday thursday]: getting over,	54. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
or trying	ambivalence
25. VOLUMES 3 & 4	55. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
[wednesday thursday]: (the)	iron lung
tapestry	56. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
26. VOLUMES 3 & 4	the man with the orange shoes
[wednesday thursday]: almost	57. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
27. VOLUMES 3 & 4	fluorescence
[wednesday thursday]: snow day	58. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
28. VOLUMES 3 & 4	flash forward
[wednesday thursday]: the thin veil	59. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
29. VOLUMES 3 & 4	mission accomplished?
[wednesday thursday]: ascend	60. VOLUMES 5 & 6 [friday beyond]:
30. VOLUMES 3 & 4	typewriter, dentist
[wednesday thursday]: blue	
monorail	

Time Transformed Into Music

I remember reviewing Ken Elkinson's album *Opal* back in 2009. The difference between these albums is night and day. *Opal* was light, almost carefree whereas [Music For Commuting](#), the 3-disc set with 60 tracks is electronically serious and low key. Yeah, sixty tracks. The Monday through Friday glimpse into the life and experiences of a theoretical commuter through the use of intricate music soundscapes is nothing short of phenomenal. It is anything but dull. I put this music into the player and I was carried along on the seminal journey, although "guided" might be a better description. I drifted, I moseyed and I strolled though the tunes and like visiting a museum, I imagined new thoughts with every change of rhythm, melody and composition.

There is a lot of subtext in Elkinson's album. First, the artwork for all the covers is by noted Danish abstract artist Ib Geertsen whose energizing art was equal only to his gentle spirit. Second, Ken recognizes the ALS foundation and is contributing part of his profits to the organization, and third he revises what I think is a fading segment of the genre, namely ambient electronic music. Yes, there have been thousands of albums released in the last five years, I have most of them. Unfortunately most of the them have been offered by basement artists that should give up their keyboards and software and attempt to climb Everest. Ken is the real deal with a nod to past and present artists that have built the genre; Eno, Roach, Schulze and Rich. His music does get tangential at times and he delves into the contemporary instrumental field and that is not to his disadvantage.

Volumes 1 & 2 Monday and Tuesday: ***Unfolding*** begins with a scant touch of Tibetan bowl sound and then the miracle happens. Through his music you can imagine the light that creeps upon the earth and the day commences. The planet starts to warm, the light grows and the inhabitants stir. It is Monday morning and it is your choice as to whether you will shine or hide behind the clouds of your existence.

High in your glass tower you daydream. What if? You wonder about the potential and you hear ***Violins/Escape***. There is a wondrous flow to the dreamscape. Your imagination transports you to distant lands and possibilities. With a grown-up music box theme, the ideas swirl around you.

Volumes 3 & 4 Wednesday and Thursday: ***(The) Tapestry*** is a melancholy tune, a retrospective perhaps of all that has taken place and it does not add up to your expectations. The mistakes, the bad luck, and the poor choices seems to have taken their toll on your spirit. But close examination shows there is a bit of light.

Ireland (Imagined) is one of my favorites on this album. With a Celtic harp and a haunting vocal track, the music carries you away if only for a while to place long envisioned, but never reached. How ironic that Ken puts into glorious music a dream I have had for a life time.

Volumes 5 & 6 Friday/ Beyond: ***Spheres*** invokes that classical concept of music vibrating from the very soul of the universe. Ken gives us that wide open breathing space with plenty of room for the imagination to saunter.

The Man with the Orange Shoes is a final attempt at whimsy before the reality sets in again. Many a time I took the train from Boston to Lowell and wondered about my fellow travelers. New immigrant, business colleague, or Russian spy? And what mischief were they up to? What heartache did they feel? What dreams did they have? Ken's pulsating tune ebbs away the minutes while I ponder their actions, their fates and now it is obvious that I am drawn into the scenario.

This is Ken Elkinson's tour de force. It is a self-sustaining monumental work that will define a new concept of the genre of ambient music. The last cut is called ***Mission Accomplished?***, but to find out the answer, you are going to have to enjoy all the tracks. I have had this in the digital music player for months and I have no intention of removing it. Ever. Sorry about the frog, Ken.

Rating: Excellent 

- reviewed by RJ Lannan on 3/30/2012

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