



Ken Elkinson

Borrowed Tracks (2008)

Ken Elkinson puts hand to his piano to record an album exclusively composed of cover versions of songs from various musical styles in his typical style, relaxed and pleasant but also always expressive.

In some cases the songs Ken Elkinson picked are quite easy to imagine as played in the artist's style of choice - the New Age atmosphere in which he excels; but in other cases a major imaginative effort is required to guess what the pianist could have created. Examples of the first category are undoubtedly "Eleanor Rigby" by The Beatles, "Blue" by Joni Mitchell and "Send in the Clowns" by Stephen Sondheim, while the clearest example of the second is "Redemption Song" originally recorded by Bob Marley & the Wailers. But even in those songs that were already based on the piano - or on keyboards - anyway (a clear example of this is "The Meeting" by Anderson, Bruford, Wakeman, Howe) Ken Elkinson put a big amount of chisel work to rewrite and adapt them, maybe levelling a bit the atmospheres making them on average softer than in the original versions but giving for each song a completely personal, very interesting interpretation.

A very good (and of course masterfully played) record by an artist who deserves a mention amongst the best pianists of the present day.

- Reviewed by Marco Piva