

MUSICWATCH #11

Ken Elkinson - Cue (August Son AS-65105-2)

As much as I love the synthesiser [in the hands of Vangelis, Tangerine Dream or Kraftwerk] the acoustic piano has thankfully never gone away and indeed seems to be holding its own against the invasion of the cheesy sounding electronic keyboard. And on Ken Elkinson's fourth album it reaches new expressive heights on a collection of eleven mellifluous tracks, all instrumental save for the final one which has a vocal by Tom Freund. It seems a shame to tar **Cue** with the classification of 'New Age', but I think calling it jazz would be stretching it a bit. However, compared to many new age albums which are blandness personified, **Cue** is pitched much higher. While the music is very easy on the ear and extremely relaxing and ideal for meditation, it also has a strong classical expressive vibe to it, which I find very attractive. Listening to this just after the new year celebrations, track 8 - *January*, pretty much sums up the winter scene outside my window, yet it offers the slight hope that Spring isn't too far off and the year will improve. All eleven tracks have impressionistic titles, and you can debate their accuracy while listening to the album. If you love the full rich sound of a piano then this is the album and pianist for you. **Cue** is an album to savour slowly like a fine wine.

For more information about this artist and album and availability visit:
www.kenelkinson.com

- John M. Peters