

MOVIMENTI prog

Author: ELKINSON, KEN

Album Title: Cue

Nation: USA

Label: August Son

Year of release: 2006

Piano, a lot of piano

We already reviewed an album by Ken Elkinson, "Opal" (2004). Now, a bit late, we write about "Cue", released in 2006. Ken Elkinson is a Californian pianist whose music is strictly related to new age and classic. In eleven out of twelve tracks included in this CD piano is the only instrument, with the composer's fingers creating relaxing, pleasant, delicate and refined textures. Only the twelfth and last track, "Beautiful Sadness", sees the participation of the voice of Tom Freund, the author of the song originally released in 1998. Anyway, this track is not that different from the others: the piano remains the central feature, and Ken Elkinson makes it talk with skill and gusto.

One issue that we might mention is the not extreme variability of the atmospheres in this record. Everything is – I'll repeat myself – relaxing and pleasant, but we are all aware that a piano can also suggest for instance anguish, rage or fear. Ken Elkinson doesn't do this, not because he's not good enough but because very simply he doesn't want to. This is music that we can imagine to listen to on the beach, at sunset, alone, maybe holding a cold beer, chilling out after a long day. This is music to smile and be at ease, to close your eyes and let yourself drift off.

A question comes to mind – what does "Cue" by Ken Elkinson (like "Opal", his previous work) have to do with progressive music? Honestly, not much. Ken Elkinson didn't invent anything, doesn't challenge any genre subdivision, doesn't break any unwritten law of music. This is why our vote doesn't go over 6/10, although personally I can't help saying that... well, this is a really good record.

- Reviewed by Marco Piva