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Link

Ken Elkinson

2009 / Far Blue Music

50.7 minutes

“Link” is pianist/composer Ken Elkinson’s seventh solo piano release and contains some of his best work yet. Elkinson’s music is accessible and melodic, but it has never been easy-listening or lightweight fluff. Influences from classical, jazz, and pop music can be heard, but Elkinson’s voice is strongly his own. Unpredictable harmonies and rhythmic changes keep the music fresh and interesting no matter how often you listen to it. “Link” will work as background music, but you will probably miss the surprises. Most of the twelve tracks are on the reflective side, making the CD an excellent choice for unwinding and de-stressing as well as for a long drive.

The title track opens the CD in a slightly dark and somewhat mysterious mood - an intriguing start! “Homecoming” lightens the mood substantially, but there is still a touch of melancholy behind the sense of anticipation. “Juniper” is one of my favorites with its unexpected chord changes and infectious energy. I also really like “Dry Lake Bed” which is very quiet and understated while conveying a feeling of isolation and perhaps even loss. “Sunlight Through Trees” has a gentle, graceful flow and a subtle warmth. “Doubt” goes to a very dark place deep within, asking questions, but not getting any answers. “Awakening” moves at a casual, easy pace that is relaxed and optimistic, gaining strength as it evolves. The soft and tranquil movement in “Sway” also has a calming effect. The closing piece, “Later,” blends a peaceful mood with a slight edginess that really works.

“Link” is a fascinating and very enjoyable album. Check it out at www.kenelkinson.com, iTunes, and cdbaby.com. Recommended!

The official release date for “Link” is June 4, 2009, but be sure to watch Ken’s site for previews!

- Kathy Parsons