new classics

KEN ELKINSON - LINK AUGUST SON AS-61170-7

Born in Cedar Grove, New Jersey in 1972, Ken Elkinson played piano in Atlanta bars and restaurants before moving to New York City to further his musical career and release his first two albums. He later moved to Los Angeles, California, where he released several more albums. His latest release, Link, is another relaxed and engaging mix of jazz and classical music. All twelve compositions are by Ken Elkinson and his mellifluous piano style is heard to great effect on tracks such as the mysterious title song, the wistful Juniper, the soulful Dry Lake Bed, the lovely Sunlight Through Trees, darkly thoughtful Doubt, and the lovely Sway. This excellent album would make ideal background music for a romantic dinner or create an intimate vibe to help you unwind after a hard day, though the reflective music also rewards careful listening. The funny and quirkily confessional sleeve notes are an unexpected bonus. Also recommended are Ken Elkinson's previous albums: Midnight Conversation (1997), Revelry (2000), Opal (2004), (Cue 2006) and Generations of Yuletide (Christmas songs, 2008). Also available as a digital download is an excellent collection of covers, Borrowed Tracks, featuring such classics as the Beatles' Eleanor Rigby, Blue (Joni Mitchell), After The Gold Rush (Neil Young), Redemption Song (Bob Marley) and Send In the Clowns (Stephen Sondheim). Website: www.kenelkinson.com

- John Pitt