

English Translation

Donos Literatura

Japanese pianist and composer Takeshi Asai has lived and worked in New York City for many years. The tenth album in his discography, which was released this summer, is a great excuse to take a look at the figure and work of this Artist.

Takeshi Asai has been interested in music since childhood. He received a thorough education in this field, both in his native country and in the United States, where he graduated with honours from the prestigious Berklee College of Music. After graduation, however, he decided to be successful in ... the IT industry, and leave music as a hobby. By chance, years later he decided to come back and rebuild his artistic career.

Takeshi Asai's musical interests were always extremely broad. He was interested in and studied jazz but also classical music. He has recorded with an acoustic jazz trio, solo piano pieces, and composes for film and theater. He does not shy away from experimentation and the use of modern contemporary technologies.

In 2016 he released the album "Le Projet Electrique", and this year he returned with the second installment of his "electric" face. On the album discussed here he included fifteen of his own compositions. Most of them are dedicated to people close to him, and the central part of the album is a three-part suite "Three Dirges" - a requiem for the recently deceased French double bass player Marc Peillon.

The title itself is a bit misleading - which I'll explain shortly - but the surprise of this inaccuracy is purely positive. Well, the album is electronic rather than electric, and moreover, numerous parts of the album take us into the world of acoustic music. The use of electronics allowed Takeshi Asai to record the entire album by himself (which in pandemic times was somewhat of a necessity). However, the programmatic eclecticism of the release does not create dissonance, but rather reflects the breadth of musical horizons and, in my opinion, the restlessness and unruliness of the artist's artistic soul.

Takeshi Asai is sometimes modern dance, he surprises us with a joke (with a slight touch of sarcasm), seduces us with lyricism. He plays with convention and references to classical music (Beethoven) and standards - both in the titles and in the content of the tracks. An intriguing and original album. Listen to it!

<https://tinyurl.com/u8yz33wr>