



Artist: POPPY ACKROYD
Album: ESCAPEMENT
Format: CD | LP | DIGITAL
Release: 24 January 2012

Tracklist:

- 1 Aliquot 4:32
- 2 Rain 5:10
- 3 Seven 3:46
- 4 Glass Sea 4:54
- 5 Lyre 4:06
- 6 Grounds 4:44
- 7 Mechanism 4:14

Poppy Ackroyd is a performer and composer from London who is currently based in Edinburgh. Classically trained on violin and piano, she fell in love with contemporary piano music and with the piano beyond the keys, discovering the world of sound that could be made from other parts of the instrument. Realising the violin had the same potential, she has spent the last few years composing delicate, intricate and beautifully atmospheric music by manipulating and multi-tracking sounds from these two instruments.

Her debut album 'Escapement' stays true to this idea. Every sound, with the exception of a few field recordings, is created using only either the piano or the violin. The seven tracks are a combination of piano melodies and chords - played both conventionally or created inside the piano using fingers, e-bows and plectrums - violin textures, melodies and pizzicato riffs and finally delicate beats composed of hits, plucks, taps and scrapes made using hands, drumsticks, beaters and small cymbals on either the frame, strings or dampers of the piano. There are often five or more different percussive lines working alongside each other.

In order to compose in this way, Poppy had to learn how to record and produce the music herself, as working with someone else would have been far too time consuming. Having discovered and restored a beautiful but neglected grand piano, she bought a laptop, digital recorder and speakers. Everything from the piano is recorded in her home studio with just this one microphone.

'Escapement' is the part of the mechanism in a piano that enables the hammer to be released, so that the string can vibrate once it is struck. It can also mean the physical act of escaping, and in the context of this album it refers to the release of emotions through the instrument. Field recordings of birds from the Outer Hebrides, and rain recorded whilst driving in Scotland, add to the narrative content of the music which underpins the whole album, giving it a strong emotional resonance.

For the last few years Poppy has been recording and touring extensively with Hidden Orchestra (Tru Thoughts Records, Denovali Records), composing and performing live soundtracks for contemporary dance and physical theatre works, and collaborating with other musicians, artists, filmmakers, actors, sound designers and radio documentary producers. Escapement will be released in November 2012 by Denovali Records and she will be touring throughout Europe soon after. For fans of MAX RICHTER, HAUSCHKA, NILS FRAHM, etc.

CD: 6 panel digipak · VINYL: 2 different vinyl colours, thick gatefold covers, free mp3 download

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Label: Denovali Records
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Promotion: US / THEM group
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