



Notes

On *Improvisations for Piano*, Scott Lawlor has entered a territory that is familiar to many artists and yet isn't as common as it probably should be.

One artist paying homage to another artist within their work is a fairly common practice. Typically they do this within the body of their own work: find some little nooks or crannies in which to work in a reference to another artist, or adapt a certain part of that artist's style to fit their own.

However, in some cases, an artist can be so moved by another's work that they set out to write a whole piece in that artist's style. In the extreme, they might write a whole series of works in that artist's style.

Such is the case of *Improvisations for Piano*. Scott Lawlor has created a whole body of works inspired by the work of composer Galina Ustvolskaya (1919-2006). Ustvolskaya was known for developing her own, unique style of composition:

Among its characteristics are: the use of repeated, homophonic blocks of sound [...] unusual combinations of instruments (such as eight double basses, piano and percussion in her *Composition No. 2*); considerable use of extreme dynamics (as in her *Piano Sonata No. 6*); employing groups of instruments in order to introduce tone clusters; and the use of piano or percussion to beat out regular unchanging rhythms (all of her acknowledged works use either piano or percussion, many use both).

– Excerpted from Wikipedia

Taking Ustvolskaya as a starting point, Scott launches into considerable depths exploring unique choices of instruments: cello, flute, bass clarinet and organ, all paired with piano.

It's a work that is a fascinating listen, engrossing from beginning to end. It's an exploration of the intersection of ambient, jazz and classical music.

Biography

Scott Lawlor is a stay-at-home dad, former broadcaster for StillStream radio, and ambient musician from Corinth, Texas. He started composing music in 1991, but took a break for about 16 years, starting again in 2013. He started broadcasting his show *The Blind Flight* in 2008, which is still going.

He has released works on over fifteen netlabels, including: Treetrunk Records, Free Floating Music, weareallghosts, Aural Films, 45 Echoes Sounds, earth-MANTRA, Buddhist on Fire, BFW recordings, Petroglyph Music, Nostress Netlabel, Dystimbria, Sound For Good Records, Happy Puppy Records, Sombre Soniks, Subterranean Tide, Webbed Hand Records and now CerebralAudio.

Contact

Scott can be contacted via Twitter (@ScottLawlor), BandCamp and The Blind Flight website.

Credits

All selections composed, arranged and performed by Scott Lawlor.

All instruments: Scott Lawlor

Cover art: Pim van Dorst.

Liner Notes: George J. De Bruin

Biography based on the Scott Lawlor Interview originally produced for The CerebralRift.

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