

Rumpistol – After the Flood

“After the Flood”, the sixth album by Danish musician and composer Jens B. Christiansen under his Rumpistol moniker, is something of a departure from his previous efforts in a lot of ways. After having suffered from a severe stress-related burn-out the artist had to completely alter the way he works.

Looking at computer screens gave Jens B. Christensen, whose 16-year career primarily has been within the field of electronic music, headaches and made him nauseated, and so he was forced to work in a completely new, quite minimalistic manner. These 12 new compositions all stem from composing on the piano.

Therapeutically, as well as artistically, this turned out to be rewarding, which is evident when listening to “After the Flood”, which has an uplifting, ethereal quality to it, yet remains tangible, almost tactile, in its use of organic, non-electronic instruments and textures. As refreshingly new this musical direction is for a Rumpistol album it’s also somewhat familiar sounding to fans of the artist. The melodies seem to ebb and flow, undulating around each other, in that particular Rumpistol way that point forward (and perhaps even upwards, celestially), yet evokes memories of past works, like the strings on “Beito” from the album “Dynamo”. The musical core, much like the works of likeminded composers like Nils Frahm and Max Richter, of “After the Flood” is the piano, but Jens B. Christiansen also composed parts for other musicians to join in on these post-catastrophe neoclassical works. This ensemble consists of Line Felding (cello), Maria Jagd (violin/viola), Kristian Hoffmann (lap steel guitar), Mike Sheridan (cristal baschet), Povl Kristian (saw), and Anna Juuliska Nykvist (flute). Jens B. Christiansen also incorporated field recordings of his every-day life using analogue recording media such as reel-to-reel tape, VHS and cassette tape as well as ASMR triggers such as gentle whispering. This doesn’t mean that “After the Flood” merely is music to casually relax to. Although the album sounds very pleasing to the ear, it’s an engaging and thought-provoking listening experience.

Credits

Jens Berents Christiansen: Piano, würlitzer, synths & field recordings.

Line Felding: cello

Maria Jagd: violin & viola

Kristian Hoffmann: lap steel & guitar

Mike Sheridan: Cristal Baschet

Povl Kristian: saw (04 & 10)

Anna Juuliska Nykvist: flute (03, 08 & 12)

String section recording technician: Jean Riel

All music written and produced by: Jens Berents Christiansen

Executive producer: Mike Sheridan

Mastering: Antony Ryan

Artwork: Thomas Skov

Distribution: Rillbar

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