Steve Peters's *Emanations* (OO Discs 0034) is a CD which consists entirely of feedback - before all you Neil Young/Merzbow fanatics start putting the matrix number in your databases I ought to point out that the feedback is done with some subtlety, and is as far removed from electric guitar din as is imaginable. Using natural microphone feedback Peters has exploited the way feedback appears gradually out of silence and thickens. Mixing several sources of feedback, and unafraid of long periods of silence, he builds a delicate architecture of mutating drones. It is, however, essentially an ambient record (with all the "don't get too excited" connotations of that word) - nice white on white cover though.
Peter Hansen Trajectories SLASK 015 CD
Steve Peters Emanations 00 Discs 0034 CD

"I cannot afford any aesthetics," says composer Peter Hansen, as he sits down at the piano. Well, aesthetics don't come cheap — they can seriously compromise your commercial potential. But I guess that's not what Hansen means (is there a problem in the translation from Swedish?). Maybe he's thinking of Morton Feldman's dictum "Let the sounds be themselves." The three pieces here are for vibraphone, with Javanese gongs added on the second. The vibes don't seem to be damped at all, and the music is slow moving and quite simple. The sleeve note name checks Feldman and Eno. Hansen's music is minimal, but not beautifully crafted like Feldman, who after all was very aesthetic in the way he got sounds to appear from and disappear into nowhere. But the result still captivates.

Shades of LaMonte Young and Manan Zazeela in Steve Peters' work, but feedback rather than just intonation is the...