

RESONANCE VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

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.

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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 namechecks 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 Marian Zazezela in Steve Peters's work, but feedback rather than just intonation is the concept. *Emanations* was originally designed as a sound installation for Claire Giovanniello's *White Paintings Wrapped In Gauze* and *Roads Driven Into Gallery Walls*. Peters wanted an "ethereal sonic presence existing on the boundary between sound and air". Resonant frequencies of the room were filtered via microphone feedback. There's an austere beauty about the result, intended to be heard at very low volume over long periods. Set the repeat function of your CD player and switch on that drone state of mind.

charts

Wired For Sound 15

Harry Partch Harry Partch Collection (CRI)

Claude Schryer Autour (empreintes DIGITALes)

Steve Peters Emanations (00 Discs)

Satoko Fujii Orchestra South Wind (Leo Lab)

John Coltrane Complete 1961 Village Vanguard Recordings (Impulse!)

Alan Lomax (producer) Southern Journey Series (Rouner)

Matthew Shipp with Joe Morris Thesis (hatOLOGY)

Ronnie Lane Kuschty Rye (New Millennium)

June Tabor Aleyne (Green Linnet)

Bill Evans Complete Bill Evans On Verve (Verve)

The Move Movements (WestSide)

Dr Didg Serotinality (Hannibal)

Ulf Langheinrich Degrees Of Amnesia (Asphodel/Sombient)

Henri Dutilleux Tout Un Monde Lointain (Chandos)

William Parker & The Little Huey Creative Music Orchestra Sunrise In The Tone World (AUM Fidelity)

Compiled by Chris Meloche, Wired For Sound. CHRW 94.7 FM (London, Ontario, Canada), Mondays 10pm, or via Internet: www.chrwfm.net