

The Color Of Extraordinary

BY

Scott Lawlor

Written by

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Scott Lawlor has been prolific lately with the release of many fine albums, most will know him for his sublime floating synths, but here on this album we explore the solo piano abilities of the artist with the release *The Color Of Extraordinary*.

We start this journey of ambience with the opener **The Darker the Night, The Brighter the Stars**. I adore this style of piano performance, when I play keyboards I'm aiming for something similar. There is something quite purposeful, yet delicate in this piece, which really sets the scene for the whole album.

I remember reading an article about Eno once, it was said that he manifested music specifically for an art exhibition at one time, now I am a big lover of modern art, and when in the UK will try and visit the Tate gallery, I may well take this album with me, as it would be perfect for the visit, especially this quite wonderful offering called, **What If Music Is What Escapes When A Heart Breaks**. This is a true explorative voyage of musical tone and timbre that you're ever likely to find.

The almost minimalistic title track is up next and of course entitled **The Color Of Extraordinary**. This offering has a slight feeling of awareness about its construction. Lawlor's skills as an ambient performer are creating here for us many dark and twisting hallways, of where what might be deemed the extraordinary, may lurk.

I love reading and listening to the works of *Edgar Allen Poe*, I was only doing so just the other day in a moment of relaxation, now if I had of been playing this

album, I would have had the perfect soundscape to add to that twinkling of time, especially this one entitled, **She Peered Over The Ledge Of Heaven**. This has all the hallmarks of something deep and mysterious, but in his performance the artist also creates something vast and quite breath-taking in an ambient sort of way. Long form at its best here by Lawlor, as he creates an 18 minute plus opus of beautifully spacious music.

History Dressed up in the Glow of Love's Kiss Turned Grief into Beauty is our next port of call, I mentioned Eno earlier, and perhaps I should remember one of his musical partners in *Harold Budd*, with this light and floating offering, which is similar in style, one that has a real sense of blissfulness about its overall construction, a nice mood changer here from the musician.

We now move into the realms of shade and shadow once more as we come across a piece called, **The Deeper the Grief, The Closer Is God**. For me there is a real juxtaposition of composition and thought here in this offering, one that is clearly mysterious in energy, deep and brooding in essence, one that explores the very labyrinths of grief, and its relationship with the enigma that is called god, a fascinating and very in depth opus indeed.

Let's now open the door to a dimension called **Our Souls Contained More Scar Tissue than Life**. There was something of an undercurrent about this piece, one that revealed many layers of emotion as it played out to its conclusion. It seemed to work with the realms of both light and darkness, but at all times retained a fluency that seems to hover and drift around the piano itself.

Grief and Love Are Conjoined is our next offering that fluency continues here with a symbiotic composition of great musical clarity. This would be one of my personal favourites off the album and listening to the performance one could with ease imagine a musical helix, swirling in and out of itself, grief and love combined perhaps.

The ever decreasing circle of sadness plunges further within this next piece called, **There Is No Grief like the Grief That Does Not Speak**. There is a fathomless pit of emotion within this offering that is so very tangible, sometimes the silence of nothingness speaks volumes. The performance here is heartfelt and moving, but one that also creates a void to allow oneself to get lost within, perhaps to escape the grief!

But My Grief Will Never Go is our final composition, Lawlor explores the nature of griefs illusion within this offering, this is beautifully played and is lighter in composition and arrangement that one may assume from the title, this cathartic journey through sufferance and pain may continue, but while it may seem like grief will never go, it does in fact eventually transmute into the form of acceptance, and for me that is what I get from the performance within this track, one that has a slight hint of something that we must all have in its tones, hope.

Scott Lawlor and **The Color of Extraordinary** is a wonderful journey through the darker emotions of ambient piano from the artist, it gives us many moments of sadness and dark moods, but also hiding within the very soul of the album is a little courage and faith. Lawlor's works are a fine example that music is the panacea that cures all ills and woes; it is the courage and fortitude of Lawlor to express this in music, that gives all of us who have suffered grief in some way, a prospect, an aspiration perhaps of an expectation of hope.