

Robin Andrej – “Ozymandias”

... Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare the lone and level sands stretch far away. – Percy Bysshe Shelley “Ozymandias”

On his debut release “Ozymandias” (Release: May 27, 2023) Vienna-based jazz drummer and percussionist Robin Andrej takes inspiration from Percy Bysshe Shelley’ iconic poem by the same name.

“Ozymandias” is a deeply personal project for Robin Andrej, who has long been fascinated with Shelley’s poem and its theme of time as the great equalizer, erasing even the most powerful and imposing of human achievements. Together with his band of Vienna’s finest jazz shooting stars and under the guidance of Sixtus Preiss as producer, Robin Andrej explores his own original sound while following his idols such as Esbjörn Svensson Trio, Alfa Mist and Brian Blade like a traveler would follow a bright star in the desert’s night sky.

The title tracks “Ozymandias I+II” with their groovy and crisy arrangements evoke the image of a slowly moving camera panned across Shelley’s desert landscape while the expressive fluegelhorn solo of Dominik Fuss sings mournfully into the night. The second half of the track features a spoken-word version of the original poem over a melodically grooving bass line by Gregor Aufmesser. The B-Side opens with the spacious track “White Keys” in which pianist Martin Listabarth builds an exciting solo that impressively showcases his sensitive touch on the beautiful grand piano recorded at Radio Kulturhaus Wien. On the final track Almalyn Griesauer lends her voice to the slow-burning tune “Sudden Silence”.

Fans of jazz, literature, and the power of the arts to inspire and move us will not want to miss "Ozymandias" by Robin Andrej.

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