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DEREK PIOTR - BAHAR (CD by Bit-Phalanx)

This is already Derek Piotr's fifth solo release (see Vital Weekly 935, 930, 828, 811 and 799 for his previous releases, some in collaboration with others) and he further explores 'rhythm' and 'voice' notions here. His last one was 'Tempatempat' and in that one he explored a more 'pop' approach to what he did; in the works before seemed to be more about ambient and modern classical music - he studied with Meredith Monk, which might give you a clue (maybe not). This time he has bit less pieces, nine instead of fourteen the last time, and it seems he has been simplifying his tunes also a bit. It's pop from an outsider point - at least that's what he says himself of these pieces. The voice plays a more important role than before and Piotr is singing his tunes. Maybe his music is based on processed voice, I am not sure about that, but he also uses guest players on clarinet, flute and saxophone. They add rather sparse sounds to the music. Some of this material owes to the world of techno, such as 'Tone Offering', but in general it stays away from rhythm organisation in that way. His rhythms are more broken up, adding confusion to the notion of pop music, I should think, and that's great. Me personally am not always blown away by his voice, but his style of crooning is something that I can imagine being quite popular. It depends on how he presents this stuff in concert. This is all excellent stuff and Piotr has delivered a highly varied album of left field electronic pop music. I am not sure if it will hit any charts but I certainly can imagine, given the right stage presentation, this might bring Piotr to places. (FdW)

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