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DEREK PIOTR - TEMPATEMPAT (CD by Monotype Records)

Hot on the heels of the release of 'Weather Patterns' - see Vital Weekly 930 - there is now the fourth solo record by Derek Piotr (see also Vital Weekly 828, 799 and 871). His interest lies in working with voice, computer manipulating thereof, and maybe some extra sounds and rhythms. On his new work he focusses his attention towards Indonesia. The title can be translated as "forging place" (tempa tempat) and "fourth place" (tempat empat). His pieces now become songs, due to the fact that he singing them more. Mostly sung in English and some in Indonesian. Various musicians provide samples of instruments such as gamelan samples provided by Elisa Hough. I think Piotr delivers his most 'pop' like record. He sings, his beats are well... beats, and to this he adds his own colouring of extra sounds and samples. There is an ethnic atmosphere part of this record, through field recordings, through instruments used and in the general atmosphere of the songs. I quite enjoy all of this. Piotr moves away from his AGF inspired earliest works, which didn't always blow me away, but it also moves away from his latest work, which I really enjoyed. That one was more ambient than this release, but both that one and this new one explores the same areas in a different way. Here the 'poppy' variation is explored and that he does pretty well. Maybe I would have opted for a little less pieces than the fourteen it has now (total length sixty-one minutes) and make it all more pop length. Some of the pieces are just a bit too long I think and it would have made the album even stronger when it was a more concise. (FdW)

Address: <http://www.monotyperecords.com>