

Derek Piotr

Avia

label: DPSR

cat. no.: DPSR003

format: CD/DL

release: 8/02/19

kontakt: press@derekpiotr.com

tracklist:

1. Girlhood
2. The Sun
3. Temple of the Fortress of Light
4. Roadwork
5. Avia
6. The Sign
7. The Bird Room
8. A Glimmer in an Otherwise Dark Field
9. Theo's Song
10. The Search
11. Three Voicemails
12. The Storm



Creating this album was a heavy task.

I submitted *Grunt*, my last album, for mastering on March 7th, 2018. My grandmother passed away two days later. I knew immediately that my next endeavor would be a threnody, and I began working on the record straightaway – at the epicenter of her decline and departure.

My grandmother was 91 when I began recording her. She lived alone in her home until the last 5 months of her life, where she was moved to assisted living. She declined rapidly at 99; until that point she had lived independently and vibrantly. Despite this vibrancy, I had a sense of urgency to record her. My clandestine practice was a desire and a way to hold on to more of her than I felt I inevitably would.

I was mute during many of the recordings taken of my grandmother. Many of them are auditory observations of her: during a phone call or conversation with someone else, or else in monologue, orating a lengthy tale. Otherwise, when chronicling our conversations, I was careful not to dominate the dialogic experience; as such my verbal offerings here scarcely amount to more than "mhm".

"Roadwork" and "The Bird Room" include a keyboard voice I designed myself from sine tones tuned micro-tonally, but my own voice is largely absent, operating mostly as a textural drone on such pieces as "Temple of the Fortress of Light" and "Three Voicemails."

For the first time in my recording practice, my voice is not the central element of these pieces. I wanted to preserve my grandmother's stories. I wanted to celebrate her.

-Derek Piotr (assisted by Dr. Michael Waugh)