GENTLEFORCE - SACRED SPACES (POWWOWNINE)

SERENE AND PANORAMIC BEATSCAPES

"Sacred Spaces pulls together all sorts of ambient-leaning electronics into a dense, glacial listening experience." Who the Hell

"You'll find yourself drawn into the rolling waves of warm, electronic throbs, with melodies reverberating as though played from deep within a dark cave." Sydney Morning Herald.

"Virgin-Era Gottsching or solo Peter Baumann meets Sun Electric. Early Orb or Space without the dicking about. Quietly, unimposingly fucking gorgeous." Kid Shirt

Sacred Spaces is Eli Murray's debut album and the ninth installment in Feral Media's POWWOW new music series.

Since its release in April 2010, praise for Sacred Spaces has spread to influential UK blog Kid Shirt whilst, at home in Sydney, Eli has been reviewed in the Sydney Morning Herald, interviewed on Triple J radio's 'Soundlab' program and by electronic music magazine Cyclic Defrost. Radio shows on Sydney's 2SER and Melbourne's PBS have featured Eli's mixes and programming skills.

"I'm drawn to music that has a physical presence of weight and warmth," Eli says. "Music you can feel with your body just as much as your ears when it's played at a decent volume. Soundsystem music like dub, jungle and dubstep is a big influence for me as are artists like Earth, Boris, GAS, Eleh, Murcof, Stephen O'Malley and Moritz Von Oswald. They all make physical music designed to vibrate the body in various ways. This is really important in my music too."

Eli's sonic journey began as a child when he resisted piano/guitar lessons, picked up a skateboard and buried himself deep in Walkman culture. His mixed tapes wandered across many genres and lead to a decade-long DJ career - spinning records at nights ranging from drum'n'bass and dubstep to folk, psych, drone and ambient.

Between 2006-08 Eli was part of the Southern Steppa crew and ran a night called Submerged at Sydney's Abercrombie

Eli Murray - Gentleforce

Hotel. Submerged was all about bass, pushing the sounds of dubstep and experimental electronica on a big system in a small room, thus creating an immersive and physical listening environment.

At home, Eli kept seeking out new forms of music although his original love for the analogue warmth of cassettes remained. Coaxing sounds from instruments like chimes, a singing bowl and an African finger piano, along with synth, piano and guitar, Sacred Spaces began to take shape.

"I'm really inspired by natural settings and open spaces. My wife and I looked after a farm in Gunning near Canberra for a time and I set up my equipment around the farmhouse and on the open verandah. It's so quiet and beautiful there; that's where the last track 'Majestic' was written and really where I made the decision to make the record."

On this debut Gentleforce release, Eli has attempted to create music that transcends entertainment. He is interested in how music is used as a medium for celebration, war, healing rituals and spiritual enlightenment.

"I think pretty deeply about how music is so much more than just entertainment in so many cultures. It's a powerful force."

See Eli's blog at gentleforce.angrypixel.org. Angry Pixel is a creative collective Eli runs with Scott Brown (Kodama).

Here are the POWWOW releases in chronological order.

School Of Two POWWOW 1 / FM39 / Melodic synth-pop songs with killer hooks.

Cleptoclectics POWWOW 2 (Poignancy Beats Volume 2) / FM41 / Left-field hip-hop & jazz.

Clairaudience POWWOW 3 / FM42 / Intimate & immediate improv-psych indie.

Destination Moon POWWOW 4 / FM43 / Percussive & moody popscapes.

Touch Typist POWWOW 5 (You Cannot Kiss A Laughing Mouth) / FM44 / Trailblazing transcendent avant-pop.

Robert Luke POWWOW 6 / FM47 / Joyful overdriven bedroom electro jams.

Broken Chip POWWOW 7 / FM52 / Soulful piano & hypnotic electronica.

Afxjim POWWOW 8 (Blackout Music) / FM55 / A joyful synthesis of acoustic, electronic and field recordings.

Vorad Fils POWWOW 10 (The Warmest Static) / FM57 / Gleaming shards of melody.

DISTRIBUTION
Fuse Music Group

FORMAT
CD & download

LABEL Feral Media

Cat. no: FM56

RELEASE DATE
3 April 2010

TRACK LISTING
1. Learning To Forgive
2. Oh The Mystery, Oh The Wonder
3. Lift Up Your Weary Head
4. Ode To Moritz
5. New Dawn
6. The Desert Song
7. Our Last Day Together
8. Majestic (We Will Never End)

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