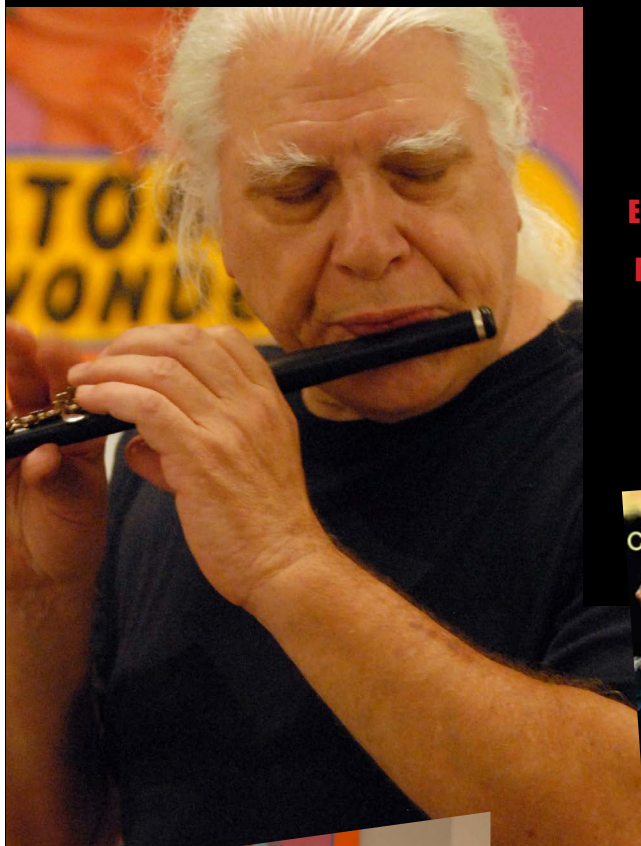


THE INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF **CREATIVE IMPROVISED MUSIC**

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New Issues

DANIELE DEL MONACO THE ZONE

STUDIO 3 RECORDINGS

A LOUD NOISE/ LOOK AT THE STALKER/ INTO THE ZONE/ WE ARE LOST/ SEVEN VALLEYS/
WHAT AM I DOING HERE/ THE ROOM 57:28

Daniele Del Monaco, composer, leader, kybd, synth; Kay Victor, vcl; Marco Capelli, g; Satoshi Takeishi, d; Ken Filiano, bass Rome 2018, 2019

This is going to be released as a double vinyl LP. But will also be available as a download. I am really looking forward to the vinyl, but am now listening to the download.

According to the notes the music is inspired by a 12th century poem The Conference of the Birds by a Sufi mystic named Farid al-Din 'Attar. Del Monaco has taken this narrative to create something of his own.

The songs and/or poetry do tell a story. To completely get the story I would have to listen a number of times as my concentration always goes to the music. What I did get sounds interesting and I am going to pursue the original poem.

And to the music. Given the instrumentation one would correctly assume it would be heavy on electronics. The music is primarily there to support the story telling, but it also stands on its own. The electronics can be both harsh and dissonant and melodic. Clearly del Monaco is in control of his music. The music itself, to my ears, is a real eclectic mix of jazz, pop, and classical, and del Monaco makes it all work. Del Monaco uses the synthesizer effectively as an accompaniment to the vocals, which are both sung and spoken. Kay Victor has a voice that lends itself to this ensemble. The drums have that heavy muffled sound which I usually do not like, but given its role here the sound fits in perfectly. And on What am I Doing Here the drums work beautifully with the organ sound on the synth, and the others fill in the sound behind Victor's soaring voice.

The group works beautifully as a unit. Judging by what I am hearing I am going to assume the music is largely composed, though it has an improvisational feel to it. In short a very interesting recording.

Bernie Koenig

