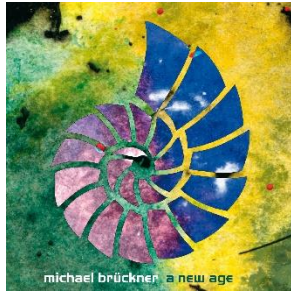


Michael Brückner

A New Age

michaelbrueckner.bandcamp.com/music



I first learned about **Michael Brückner** from another ambient composer, Jim Ottaway, who was citing composers whose works were notable within the vast field of electronic music. It made me want to know more about Brückner. This prolific German artist, who certainly knows his way around a synthesizer, has released more than a hundred albums in the past three decades. Not even Anton can boast that. Don't be fooled by the title of this album, **A New Age**. There's no New Age music within. Just several tracks of droning electronica that lasts more than two hours if you count the bonus tracks. And I do. The tracks are called "parts" and there are basically five of them. There is a lot of intriguing music in them. Enough for some incredible journeys. If you are going to search for new planets, start here. X.

Part 1 - A violent explosion creates the first track and then it is 30 minutes of chaotic discovery. Is this the Big Bang of a new planet? A single drone throughout acts as a smooth, dark conduit to get from beginning to end or maybe it is an infinite loop. The serpentine wave of sound features micro-disturbances that permeate the track. Sonic protuberances, wavering vibrations, and glassy textures carry the drone to completion.

Part 2 - Has a soft vibratory opening, but then it enters some large open starless space and expands in almost a linear fashion. Are there voices in space? Voices that are not exactly human like us? Beings that communicate super-sonically. Brückner adds some sort of whale song in here to remind that not everyone communicates with words. We must listen closely.

Part 3 - More voices. Perhaps we are on a planet teeming with life, but there is nothing here we can recognize. It all sounds violent. Frightening. Continuous, deep, terrifying voices, a great deal of movement, then the bell-like elements that conceal more than they comfort. An attack, a pursuit, a chase, and a fatal fall are all happening in this scenario. Maybe we have found that Forbidden Planet after all. You cannot ignore the voices.

Part 4 - Contains a lighter, flowing theme, with an ostinato drone, but there are still elements of apprehension in the notes. Is it something to follow or an alarm? Somehow the music condenses into a chord. However, after a length of over twenty-four minutes, it reaches disturbing levels. There is a long and a short version of this part and I am listening to the longer account to hear all of Brückner's finely-tuned nuances.

Part 5 - What sounds like some kind of inorganic chorus, but really is not, makes up the last part. You can hear a pendulous refrain, a back and forth movement to the music. It sounds like a lament and feels like an electronic dirge. There is a definite a tone of finality in the music. Are we not destined to return?

Other tracks include Klimpic System, Pieceful, and Ambient Humm. While most electronic music similar to this offers a simple means of escape, Michael Brückner's compositions have deep fundamentals that are more thought provoking, pensive, and frankly, a little disturbing. I like that. Now If I can just find my way back to the beginning. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, ArtisanMusicReviews.com