



UNITED STATES, LOS ANGELES

ALBUM REVIEW

JACQUELINE CORDES

SINGULARITY

Jacqueline Cordes' *Singularity* is an ambitious, multi-dimensional sonic odyssey that explores the interplay between sound and colour. Released on June 28, 2024, the album is a testament to Cordes' unique artistic vision, deeply influenced by her synesthesia—an ability that allows her to perceive music as colours. This debut project is not just an auditory experience but an exploration of how music can be structured, catalogued, and reimagined beyond conventional frameworks.

At just 22 years old, Cordes has already made a name for herself in the world of contemporary composition. Her invitation to speak at the 21st Fibonacci Conference at Harvey Mudd College in July highlights the innovative approach she takes in her music, particularly in the way she identifies and catalogues musical scales. With a background in film scoring and classical composition, *Singularity* showcases her ability to blend ambient textures, cinematic orchestrations, and electronic elements into a cohesive, immersive soundscape.

The album opens with *Otherworld*, immediately setting the tone with an ethereal, dreamlike quality. Layers of electronic pulses and reverberating tones create a sense of weightlessness, drawing listeners into Cordes' meticulously crafted universe. *A Child's Song* follows with a delicate, almost fragile melody, evoking nostalgia and innocence, reminiscent of Danny Elfman's whimsical yet melancholic compositions.

Tracks like *Encounter From Beyond* and *The Pursuer* introduce darker, more suspenseful elements, reinforcing

Cordes' ability to manipulate tension and atmosphere. The *Pursuer* (Postlude) serves as a haunting resolution, fading into the distance like a fleeting nightmare. *De tous biens plaine*, a striking inclusion, showcases Cordes' appreciation for early music, seamlessly integrating medieval melodies into the album's futuristic aesthetic.

Amber Sky offers a moment of warmth, its rich harmonies and luminous orchestration embodying the golden hues of its title. Meanwhile, *Reality 101 Failure Intro* and *Tunnel* (Running Theme) play with electronic dissonance, fragmented rhythms, and evolving textures, hinting at influences from Trent Reznor and Depeche Mode. These pieces highlight Cordes' experimental side, pushing the boundaries of ambient and classical music.

The album concludes with *Aurora*, a composition that encapsulates Cordes' synesthetic vision in its fullest form. The piece shimmers with shifting tonalities, mirroring the natural light phenomenon it's named after. The result is a mesmerising finale that lingers long after the final note fades.

What makes *Singularity* truly remarkable is its ability to balance academic exploration with emotional depth. Cordes' fascination with music theory and chromesthesia never overshadows the sheer beauty of her compositions. Instead, she invites listeners into her world, where each note has a corresponding colour, and each track paints a distinct picture.

For fans of ambient, classical, and experimental music, *Singularity* is a standout debut that showcases the limitless potential of sound as a storytelling medium. It's a deeply personal yet universally resonant work, proving that even those without synesthesia can still experience music in vibrant, unexpected ways.



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