

Song Review

Song: Prague

Overall Impression:

Subtle and inviting, Lestnitsa leads listeners down ancient streets conjured from deep, moody melodies on piano and yearning strings as subtle percussion beats out immersive rhythms of daily life, and a soft, earnest voice narrates in spoken word, the listener's sole guide through the intricacies of the tender composition that form Prague. Passion mounts as violins reach out for new heights, soaring above the rest of the composition, piano frantically following underneath, until the tension finally breaks, returning to gentle narration and the song's original theme, and ultimately easing out introspectively on a final lingering passage, leaving listeners sober and introspective.

Strongest Point(s):

Lestnitsa's players, keys and strings alike, show beautiful nuance and expression in their playing, which the ambience of the song's recording broadens and highlights. Prague's melody is gorgeous, with a wonderful capacity to be both uplifting and melancholic at the same time, and the soft drumming that forms a backbone for the piece shows great variation, adding complexity and interest to an already multi-faceted work. The lyrical patterns flow easily, conversationally, compelling its audience's attention and empathy, and providing the perfect contrast to Prague's heightened musical drama, while the arrangement's build, climax, and release at approximately 3.40 shows a practiced ear for composing that resonates masterfully with anyone lucky enough to be listening.

Area(s) of Improvement:

Prague has incorporated beautiful dynamics, like the break at 3.40, which give it so much vivacity. It would be wonderful to see even more of this kind of nuance and varied energy from Lestnitsa in the future!

Target Audience Appeal:

Instrumentally skillful, and narrative in nature, Prague is a fascinating listen for people from a wide variety of backgrounds. While language may be a barrier for some depending on their cultural background and education, its outstanding melodic work guarantees that there is something universal for every audience to enjoy. This would be a great feature track on a full length album, and will fit nicely on listener-driven playlists. Mid-sized and larger concert halls could also provide an opportunity for Lestnitsa to give fascinating performance re-creating this song live.

Artist target suggestions:

The Wild Conductor, Javier Navarrete, Attila Fias, Black Violin, Zoe Keating, Chinese Man,

Wax Tailor

About the Reviewer:

Mary Wildsmith is an FM Radio DJ, and has been involved in both on-air work and radio production for five and a half years, in addition to working the past decade in and out of the live entertainment industry. She has experience with the fickle nature of the music industry, selecting singles to promote or discard for radio play, and engineering stage to audience sound systems. Having worked balancing, troubleshooting, and running audio rigs has enabled her to be both sensitive, and sympathetic, to the finesse and nuance of quality recording. Mary is passionate about promoting new and independent artists, and has spent extensive time in round-table environments discussing music and audio critically, and collaborating with artists to enable them to put the best possible foot forward with their art.

Vocals: Strength

Lyrics: Strength

Instrumental Performance/Execution: Strength

Melody/Rhythm: Strength

Arrangement/Flow: Strength

Recording Quality/Overall Mix: Strength

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