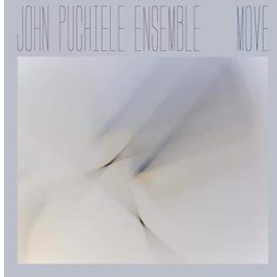


## John Puchiele Ensemble

### Move



The album **Move**, by **John Puchiele** is quite different. That got my attention immediately. The expansive, eight track collection crosses more than a few genre boundaries with an eclectic mixture of cinematic, symphonic, and ambient offerings. There is everything to like here. As the title suggests, the music flows, ambles, surges, drifts, and displays many forms of movement, all in a positive direction.

The composer, John Puchiele started making his music in his early teens. He fell in love with the synthesizer and the affair has been going on for over four decades. Puchiele is known for his work in film and television and related arts. In his persona as The John Puchiele Ensemble he has released two other album, *Life Cycle* and *Inside*.

The recording begins with the tune **Move I**. It opens as sort of a march, but then it is distilled into a contemporary theme with the back score acting as a lively heartbeat of rhythms. I feel there is just a touch of the industrial in here that gives it a modern texture. It describes gray scudding clouds, clock hands spinning, in other words, a busy world. Everything has life. Everything has movement.

The track **Floating** offered up this wondrous sense of weightless movement as if one was a raft on the sea of life. Adrift, bobbing about, but still aware of everything. Blue sky above, murky waters below. Or imagine the hero riding on a cloud and looking down to see a deserted city with no explanation. The tune plays with the imagination on a rather mature level.

The mood changes dramatically with the tune **Slide**. The theme is a minimalistic fantasy of “barely there” motifs that drift in an out of your listening consciousness. This dreamlike incursion slows time and for all I know, distorts space. It was a welcomed respite for the weary psyche.

**Move II** is another modern day symphony with a moody tinge of darkness that metamorphoses into something brighter, dynamic, and slightly exhilarating. Strong violin gives the piece a reserved energy at times which the orchestra augments like a symbiotic relationship. The result is light where it did not exist before.

In Puchiele’s illusionary piece, **Stepping**, each tentative stride is noted. We try to maintain a certain pace in life, but we must avoid the pitfalls, the missteps, and no wandering off the path, please. Real life however, is full of blunders and disappointments. Perhaps the steady pace of this music suggests perseverance above all.

A melancholic cello is the lead in the next tune called **Walking On**. Humankind has decided to persevere after all and this is us walking on. The direction is straight ahead, sometimes steeply inclined, sometimes in a circle, but it is hopefully constant. This is a favorite for me.

The final cut is appropriately called **The Last Embrace**. This last encounter is heart rendering and sad. Everything about that chance meeting is forgotten now and the sense that all is lost fills the air. It is hard to breathe, and harder to see through the tears as everything fades from view. Yes, this has movement also, but it is too immutable for the heart. This is an amazing piece.

There is something subliminal about Puchiele's recording. You don't know its there until it is and then it is like an epiphany of sound. This is a fine example as the classical music of a modern world. More light, more color, and much more texture to feel as a listener. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews