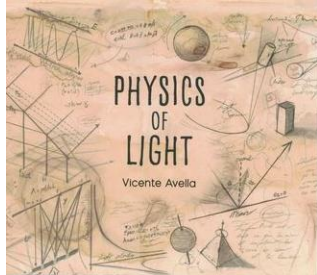


Vicente Avella

## The Physics of Light



If you've ever wondered about all the properties of light, then wonder no more. Pianist and composer **Vicente Avella**, on his new album **Physics of Light**, offers up sixteen tracks of contemporary music that analyzes and explains light in all of its manifestations, including light you cannot see. Avella, whose biography is somewhat obscure, also has a pair of albums to his credit, *All the Days of My Life* and *Rising*, both of which I found to be more than remarkable. Sixteens tracks on the current album is a magnanimous gift of music and Avella takes the time to carefully craft each song so that it blends seamlessly with its neighbor and makes for a continuously unbroken stream of musical, if you'll pardon my pun, enlightenment.

The first track is called **Light Particles**. It's sometimes hard to accept that light has mass and that it can carry energy. But most of all, it can come in waves. Vicente's opening tune changes light into sound waves to introduce us to his dissertation. As the music plays we learn about light and its innate warmth. Right away you can tell this not really a science project.

The music comes in rippled impressions on the tune **Radiance**. As in most of the songs on the album, there is a finely balanced blending of classical and contemporary themes. With a combination of heat and light, the music gets to the heart of us all. Sunshine makes us smile.

**Where Light and Shadow Meet** is typical on the album, for what is light without its counterpart, shadow? Avella uses a delicate hand on this piece. The cadence is tentative, the melody is tender, yet stylistic in a formal sense.

**Oscuro** is another word for dark and this piece is certainly that. It represents not only the absence of light, but defines the mood it creates. Like a candle that burns out, it is the fear one feels when all is lost. What remains now is only warm wax that will quickly cool and with it, your hopes that soon vanish. A very powerful piece for me.

One of the more intense pieces on the album is called **Resistance**, which ironically had a very dramatic flow. What starts out as an easy going tune, suddenly gains momentum and courses into the light of the taut, powerful story of what can be opposed, but never quite stopped. This is a very strong contemporary work characteristically serious as a counterbalance to the other "light" works of the recording. The Yin and Yang of Light so to speak.

My favorite of all sixteen tracks is called **Intermezzo**. Every time I played the album, I repeated this track. This wondrous post classical interlude was incredibly poignant and tender. I could visualize Vicente, in tuxedo and tie, sitting at the piano, a glistening candelabra perched on top. And in the darkness of the stage, the music created light where there was none.

Sometimes our lives are veiled by an **Opaque Object**. Just a hint of light is all we can see. It can be a piece of milky glass, a sky full of clouds, or doubts in our own minds. This is a simple tune

without a lot of rifts and arpeggios that reminds us to literally look beyond the pale and keep our lives in order.

When we hold back the light, we get what is known as an **Umbra**. This is not only an idea from physics, but also applies to our souls. If you keep it in darkness, then only darkness will remain. Avella's somber, shadowy lament is very moody. Best to step into the light now.

**Visible Light** is the final cut on Physics of Light and one of the better tracks as its serious demeanor sheds the uncertainties of scientific queries and reminds us that proof is right before our eyes. The sun, the stars, the smiles, the bright shining eyes of love are all the substantiation we need. Thank you Mr. Avella for reminding us.

From the light of our own sun to the hopeful light which we have within, Vicente Avella has investigated, noted, enhanced, and demonstrated that we need the light to live. The light of every new day, every new hope, and every bit of faith we can muster. When it is all said and done, we will not just grow, but flourish. All we need do is nurture the light in ourselves. It is a light that neither strong wind, nor spurious doubt can ever extinguish. Highly listenable.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews