

TOR LUNDVALL PRESENTS: WITNESS MARKS

THE WORKS OF JOHN B. McLEMORE

Dais Records and Tor Lundvall are proud to announce the field recordings and ambient works of John B. McLemore, star of the 2017 breakout podcast "S-Town". We were fascinated to learn that John had a musical correspondence with Dais artist Tor Lundvall, and we are excited to share some of his beautiful work with the world.

TOR LUNDVALL'S STATEMENT:

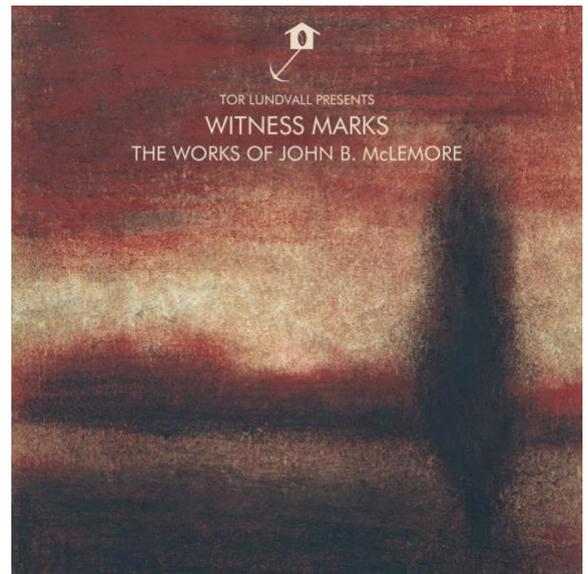
In September 2012, I received an e-mail from someone named John B. who said he had assembled a lengthy remix of my music, which also incorporated some of his own material. John asked if I'd mind if he posted this recording on YouTube, to which I agreed. He also mentioned that there was a second part to his mix that was "roughed out", but never completed. I was curious to hear both parts, so shortly afterwards, John mailed me two CDs which I enjoyed very much. The recordings were hypnotic and haunting, evoking images of vast fields at twilight. I was especially fond of the second disc which had a darker atmosphere and featured more of John's original material, beginning with ghostly clock chimes and ending with a mysterious piece using dried seed pods and other cryptic sounds that slowly built-up into an intense, almost claustrophobic environment.

My correspondence with John lasted about two months. In one of his final e-mails, John said "I have to observe that your paintings seem to have a great deal of loneliness involved in them... even multiple characters seem to be together alone, so to speak... I really appreciate looking at your paintings as well as your music, I think I have connected with the spirit of them both as much as anyone can." He went on to discuss his struggles with depression, caring for his aging mom and his concerns about the future. I tried to encourage his music as a possible outlet, perhaps as a means to help transform his feelings of loneliness into a more content solitude. Always easy to say, but as I well know, not always easy to do.

In his last e-mail in late October 2012, John sent me a beautiful slideshow of his Fall flower beds and his dogs. I was touched and I told him how much watching his video had brightened my day. That was the last time I heard from him.

Last year, I visited John's YouTube channel to see if Part One of his mix was still posted, which it was, and still remains. I was shocked and saddened to read in the comments section that he had passed away. The comments also suggested that John had received some sort of national attention recently. This quickly led me to the S-Town podcast.

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DAIS096

CD / DIGITAL

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CD RELEASE DATE: April 6th, 2018

UPC

DIGIPACK CD: 669439870556

DIGITAL: 192562209523

TRACKS:

Clock Chimes In The Mist
John B.'s Dark Spring (Inspired By Carl Michael Von Hausswolff)
Field Recordings (For Francisco Lopez)
Quiet Passage
His Darker Paintings
Before Winter's Death (CD bonus track)

GENRE

Field Recordings, Ambient

FOR FANS OF

William Basinski, Andrew Chalk, Francisco Lopez,
Kevin Drumm, Rapoon, Lawrence English

PRESS

CHRIS HANSELL | c.g.hansell@gmail.com

DAIS RECORDS

daisrecords.com | contact@daisrecords.com

TOR LUNDVALL

www.torlundvall.com

<https://www.discogs.com/artist/106949-Tor-Lundvall>



Although I had mixed reactions after listening, I was thankful that S-Town shed more light on John and his remarkable life... but somehow, I just couldn't place the person in the podcast with the person I had corresponded with. Had I not listened to S-Town, I would have remembered John as a very private, somewhat dark and lonely person. He may have been these things, but there was obviously far more to him than that.

After finishing the final episode, I decided to play the second, unreleased CD of John's recordings for the first time in years. Listening to his clock chimes ringing in the dark was an eerie and chilling moment. I was reminded of a line from my song "29" which says "I live with dreams and a lonely mind, my clock is set to a different time". I wondered what those lyrics might have meant to him.

John had mentioned that he wasn't satisfied with his final mix, but I felt his work was too special not to be heard. I hope that these recordings offer another glimpse into the creative mind of a unique, complex and gifted individual who tragically left this world all too early.

Tor Lundvall
January 17th, 2018

JOHN B. McLEMORE'S NOTES:

This is what was intended to be the second part of my Tor Lundvall Remix series. Unfortunately I am dissatisfied with it due to a few defects, and it is highly unlikely that I will ever be able to complete it. Still it serves as a testament to my interest in the work of Tor Lundvall that I made it this far. Defects are as follows: The first movement is too 'fussy', and the first section of the fifth movement seems a bit long and may bore the listener, but since it consisted of so many slow moving textures, I don't know how I could redo it and still achieve what I was wanting to accomplish. Additionally, this recording was done just days before my Father died, and there are many feelings of guilt associated with the time spent on it. If you are receiving this recording, either you are one of my better friends, or you are a great admirer of Tor Lundvall, and requested that I send it to you.

- 1st Part: Basically a track of me fiddling around with old clock bells, and air turbulence mixed with Tor Lundvall and Field Recordings of rain, birds, cicadas, frogs and such.
- 2nd Part: My interpretation of Lundvall's Dark Spring. This track was inspired by the music of Carl Michael von Hausswolff.
- 3rd Part: Very ambient Field Recordings inspired by the work of Francisco Lopez.
- 4th Part: A Very Quiet passage consisting of delicate Field Recordings.
- 5th Part: Music performed entirely by me inspired by the Darker paintings of Tor Lundvall. Most of the instruments on this piece consisted of dried seed pods from the plant; Showy Rattlebox (*Crotalaria Spectabilis*), that I had collected and dried the previous Fall. There are other sounds from my own environment as well.

This mix was assembled in the Late Fall of 2003. There are some very Quiet passages in this piece, so it requires a nearly Isolated listening environment... It should be heard After Midnight, in the Late Fall of the year, and, not surprisingly, a Very Long Attention span is a Prerequisite.

John B. McLemore
September 10, 2012

Read about the story (and listen) at Red Bull Music Academy here:
<http://daily.redbullmusicacademy.com/2018/02/the-secret-musical-life-of-s-towns-john-b-mclemore>

Read Pitchfork's Response here:
<https://pitchfork.com/news/s-towns-john-b-mclemores-ambient-music-released-listen/>

Learn more about S-Town here:
<https://stowncast.org>