

Drake Music Artist in Residence Podcast – Spring/Summer 2020

Podcast Text Description

Elinor's voice - a soft whispered voice, she sounds younger than her years, her voice is said to be calming, yet here it rushes in forcefully with the words:

Drake Music is....

Drake is quiet, it's very very quiet

Drake is different textures and

Drake is experiencing journeys

Drake is the sound of the rain and it's no sound sometimes because at work it's always sound

Drake is like an echo, and like the wind, the way it moves and weaves itself around nature.

There is a pause, here, a beat - like in theatre

Drake is exciting.

Then the sound design changes so that the word Porous is dispersed and broken apart, arriving in on loops, arriving and disappearing, the words are spoken by different member of the Drake Music team.

The voices are brought in so that all the hair on your skin stands up on end, it is eerie and haunting. Sonia's piercing voice and bluesy Southern rhythms flow through cutting through the words, bringing mellow oozing sensations of big bold feminine jazz,

Pourous

Pourous

Porr... Pours.

(Repeated and flowing in and out)

Joy: Cool! Nice to meet you all

Gareth (AiR): Nice to meet you too!

Gareth (AiR): Cheers

Sounds of chairs and laughter and saying of goodbyes at the end of an interview.

Then there is the sound of a guitar, an acoustic guitar and Elinor's voice, quiet in the distant, mumbling to guitar sounds; a peering out of the darkness.

Elinor says:

So I lay in the dark for a very long time.

The guitar falls away to another voice, a male voice singing "You'd like that, I'd like that too, so put your extraordinary..."

Then Joy's voice arriving in rhythm, her voice over and over again, looped and back and fourth pronouncing the word Fluidity

The return of Sonia's voice with this oozing mellow Southern melody.

Fluidity Fluidity Fluidity

Fluidity Fluidity

Fluidity

Fluid

Ity

.

Elinor's voice returns, as if revealed through the trees like sunlight trickling down from the sky:

Elinor says:

I retrieved a soundtrack I'd created years ago that had me thinking of Joy's interview.

When I listen back to Joy's interview I see her on the other side of a window pane with rain

The rain begins to fall as rain effects are played.

sliding down the glass.

It is a stormy night,

and I look at her in the rain on a damp pavement
And she is inside what might be a shop,
or a café, listening to the sounds all around her

And whilst I'm unable to make a room contain this space and sound
I feel I can make the scene more cinematic and make Joy's reflections more alive."

Rainstorm sound effects get louder then disperse into a mix track of Joy's voice on loop and modified to be slowed down:

"I like the sound of rain."

Then music that is soft and haunting, the sound of a whirring spaceship, a fan perhaps outside a steamy apartment window, it is summer, and the voices of two people talking, the crunch of pillow and mattress and blankets as they cuddle up, Joy's voice fuses into this scene, this scene of intimacy, summer rain, a downpour in the heat of the day. These outsider bodies/voices feel in the same room as the interview where Drake Music AiRs interview DM team.

Joy: I like sounds that are natural

Outside Female's voice: Like glass, like the curls of waves, like glass. Like the curls of waves

Gareth: What does Drake Music sound like?

Joy: (laughter) (nervous laughter)

Outside Male's voice in response: Like a whirlpool.

Then voices again, Elinor's soon followed by Sonia's a mirroring, with each turn or note of word and sound, Sonia is following close behind, then her voice disperses to all the spaces of the room, into the corners and against the walls and soon her voice is the whole sky, and Elinor's voice is floating now with Sonia gently above and around:

Hold on hold on

Hold on Holding (Hold in)

Holding on on on on on

Hold on

Hold on Holding on

Then gently, brightly, vibrantly, the sound of birdsong.

(Birdsong effect)

Birdsong so loud and surrounded that we feel like we are all in a forest.

Elinor: It was really vivid And when she said "birdsong"

Elinor: When she said birdsong the whole forest in my mind came alive it was bright and sunshine and leaves and green and Spring. I have Spring in my head.

I had an empty stage.

Wooden floor, beautiful acoustic raw

Holding on and birdsong.

Elinor delivers this line boldly, brightly and confidently: I had the trees and the forest.

Gently, softly, more quietly,

Elinor: I had the trees and the forest. And birdsong.

And with Tom, it's quiet, it's very very quiet. It's quiet, it's very very quiet.

Humour and quiet and humour and quiet and laughter and quiet and nervous laughter.

And nirvana.

Tom's voice describes the sounds of Drake Music,

"It's quiet it can be very very quiet"

Elinor whispers gently in finding her voice again, mirroring albeit, a little more cautiously than Tom's,

Nervous laughter and nirvana.

And loud loud loud - *(these words jutting forward)*

Then her voice pulls the next two words back as if oars in the water, bringing the water back, so that the boat can move on forward;

and soft.

And loud --- *moving forward*

and soft. *(moving back)*

And loud and loud and soft.

The words - moving forward and back - a push and pull.

at the word “and”

after soft before nirvana

And nirvana And loud loud loud and soft, and loud and soft. And loud and loud and soft.
that moves into the wind.

Sounds of the wind, and then we can hear horses trotting down a street in the snow. And then we hear Louis' voice:

Louis is speaking about how he has modified instruments to be more accessible for a disabled pupil who wanted to do the music GCSE and he thought that “There's Gotta be other people doing that”

In his interview he had likened Drake Music to the wind and that's when I brought the wind in, because Louis, was the wind, as it moves and twists transforming changing shape and responding to all they come into contact with - what he said was very poignant and the wind takes the audience on a journey, we are rushed from a forest filled with birdsong now to the sea, we see the waves, and seagulls pass overhead.

Elinor:

That moves into the wind, and sea and water and waves and sea and water and waves.

And Miryam's sea

Salt.

Air.

3.2 Sound effects: Seascape.

4.6 Insert File: Exploring Textures

Myriam's voice as if she's going underwater, or is moving under water so her voice sounds a little farther away.

3.3 Sound effects: Waves on the sand

1.8 ER:

Taste it. Taste it in the fish, taste in on the land, taste it on the trees, on the grass. More sound effects of water, of nature, all fused against the urbanesque of London. And then, Coronavirus happened. And now nature is rising up against the urban landscape.

3.4 Sound effects: Wild Jungle Sounds, loud birds, crickets.

3.5 Sound effects: Beachscape

1.9 ER:

Was Drake psychic?

3.6 Sound effects: Waves/Beachscape

Alongside Sonia's singing is the sounds of the waves lapping up on the sand.

2.2 Sonia's mix and Voice - Never Lose Heart (Closing Track)

Never lose heart – Words & Music by Sonia Allori

Never lose your head,
Even when those around you are losing theirs,
'Cos that's an awful lot of heads,
To trip over,
Or kick up the corridor! La la la la la

Never lose your trust in people,
Even if they let you down,
'Cos it's a case of give and take,
You have to give a little,
And lose all the hate. La la la la la

Never lose hope,
That life will keep surprising every day,
You've got to keep the faith alive,
Believe in yourself,
Don't stick your hand in a bee hive! La la la la la

Never lose heart,

Even though life's frustrating,
Your body's misbehaving,
You can do it if you try,
And if not,
Then maybe one day you will fly! La la la la la la ...

Sonia's voice stops singing and we are left with an absence that feels heavy hitting into the chest, or the pit of the stomach.

The pause is stark, the emptiness is noticeable - we don't quite know what to do but the waves of the sea keep lapping up on the sand and the sea, and then we are calm again, resting back into our body - the sea still moving, water splashes and the waves keep on waving.