

Iiro Rantala New Trio – Elmo (2008)

Written by bluesever

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1 Greetings From Assisi 5:48 2 La Toalla 6:51 3 Giant Steps 4:21 4 Shit Catapult 6:08 5 Aino 5:53 6 Tilu 50 6:27 7 Elmo 6:50 8 Confirmation 3:30 9 Three Gay Men 5:56 10 Little Wing 5:49 Iiro Rantala – piano Marzi Nyman – guitar Felix Zenger – human beatbox Vocals [Uncredited] – Unknown Artist

Iiro Rantala sound like something you've never heard before, but have always wanted to hear - it's like jazz on drugs - a blend of fusion, bossanova, swing, blues and rock, all tied together with perfect mathematical precision. Iiro Rantala is a blindingly accomplished pianist, the progressions and riffs catchy and powerful, the guitar is extremely experimental in places but retains structure and musical sense, and the whole album is accompanied by the beatboxer Felix Zenger, which makes for a very interesting sound.

This album is instrumental, but if you aren't a fan of instrumental music, I would still advise listening. There isn't one point during this album where you can find a space that could be filled with lyrics, and if anything, words would spoil the already lyrical and beautiful melodies.

Overall Impression: This is very easily one of the best albums I have ever heard- the musicians are flawless enough to pull off trick after trick, quirk after quirk, and countless musical jokes. Each song is very well written and is absolutely packed with ideas, rarely returning back to a definitive chorus section. I would have to say that the most impressive songs are 'Greetings From Assisi', 'Shit Catapult' and 'Aino'. The first two for fun, but musically impressive, songs; and 'Aino' for ballad-like beauty and a goosebump-invoking guitar solo. Were this album to go missing, replacing it would be the first thing on my mind. --- rabidguitarist, ultimate-guitar.com

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