



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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- From a Dream to a Pianism Without Boundaries -

Michael ZT Rose
PHANTASMAGORIA

Fifteen piano miniatures of ***PHANTASMAGORIA*** embody the quintessential piano you always wished you could play - but you could play it only in your dream. In the absence of physical limitations in the digital age, Brooklyn based composer and visual artist Michael Zachary Thompson Rose redefines pianism by turning this dream into reality.

PHANTASMAGORIA is the debut recording by Michael ZT Rose, in which this exceptionally musical millennial explores the piano virtuosic territory by using keyboard merely as a MIDI input device.

At the age of twenty Rose suffers appendicitis. He picks up the computer as a way of passing time in bed after the surgery, and starts to make music. He sets out to explore rhythmic, tonal, and melodic juxtapositions of his motifs using the sampled piano sound coupled with quantized computer performance and manages to encapsulate emotion, energy and quirky sense of humor.

As a millennial, ZT Rose soaks up music of legendary American minimalist composers, such as Glass, Reich, and Riley and sets out to bridge the dichotomy between change and repetition. His music is infused with Baroque harpsichord virtuosity of Scarlatti, the pathos of Geminiani, and the sound synthesizer vocabulary from the early video games of his childhood. His "songs" for solo piano, which range from just over a minute-long miniatures, such as "Butterflies on the Plateau with Bison," and "Power Blast" to longer pieces, such as "S Phase," "Silver Hammer," and "San Miguel," all signal yet another call for expression and musicality among the new generation of composers working within the realm of the electronic music.

Michael ZT Rose was born in 1990 in Boston, into the family of architects, and grew up in Cambridge, MA. He has been a visual artist ever since he can remember and studied painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. He graduated in 2013.

This release is a part of an ongoing series of albums from ArpaViva Recordings that celebrates piano: ***New York Love Songs*** (2010) in which Jenny Q Chai plays the part of both pianist and vocalist; the vibrating glove and live improvisation in ***Kosmogonia*** (2012), by Victoria Jordanova; the power blasting sequencer in ***Phantasmagoria*** (2016), by Michael ZT Rose; and the pianism at its best in ***Hierosgamos*** (2017), by Cindy Cox.

ArpaViva Recordings is a Los Angeles based independent new music and media label founded in 2002 by the composer and performer Victoria Jordanova. It is dedicated to recording and publishing contemporary music that features traditional instruments in an innovative way, taking into account the 21st century sensibilities, aesthetics, culture, and technology.

For ADDITIONAL INFORMATION and INTERVIEW INQUIRIES, please contact:
Victoria Jordanova,
jordanova@arpaviva.org
ArpaViva Recordings,inc.
468 Dustin Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90065

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