

It's a real pleasure to listen to the new **Cettina Donato**'s album, a painting with musicians involved in this project as actors to show what **Cettina Donato** wants to show. She's a wonderful director, as her Master Salvatore Bonafede, who wrote the liner notes of this album. All musicians in this work make a collective work with no any boring listening, always cared by the piano of the leader **Cettina Donato**, pushing them in order to have as the best as they can do. The musical space get plenty of wonderful solos by Jerry Popolo and other musicians. Besides the **Cettina Donato**'s compositions it's important to mention the way the musicians play two famous standards as Summertime and A Night In Tunisia. Two jazz standards used from the band in order to play the role of the **Cettina Donato**'s music, very intimate. This album is "real", not just a simple documentation of a studio recording.

My last work called Cettina Donato Orchestra, CRESCENDO advertised by Berklee Today (June 2013). This magazine goes all over the world. Notice a picture of me (the second one starting from left).

ALUMNOTES



Sandro Morales '09

In March, pianist **Keiko Ueda** of Kumamoto, Japan, released the CD *Sanctuary* with 21-string koto player Izumi Fujikawa. The album also includes pieces with flamenco guitar, chorus, and orchestra. Visit www.keikoshiga.com.

2009

Sara Richardson Crigger of Nashville, TN, has been accepted to a graduate program in vocal performance at Austin Peay State University.

Brennan Dylan of Woodside, NY, released the album *Raising in Berlin*. He is part of the Clinic Records roster, and his song "Slammin'" was featured in a Nurse Jackie trailer. Visit www.brennandylan.com.

Gilda Garcia of Mexico City, Mexico, was a sound designer for the animated box-office hit in Mexico *La Leyenda de la Llorona* (*The Legend of the Crying Lady*) and has worked on a number of award-winning features and short films. Visit www.sinematiff.com.

Drummer **Daniel Malone** of Jackson, MI, and his band Les Raquet released the album *White Hall*. Visit www.lesraquet.com.

Sandro Morales of Sherman Oaks, CA, scored the feature films: *Fatal Justice* and *Collision Course*. Visit www.sandromorales.com.



Concetta "Cettina" Donato '10

Kandayl Masanami of Boston, MA, is the founder of the Worship Him Out Loud Experience (W.H.O.L.D.E.), a worship music concert tour and training initiative. Visit www.h-o-l-o.com.

2010

Orlando Dixon of Colmar Manor, MD, was a featured artist on the fourth season of *The Voice*.

Trent Freeman of British Columbia, Canada, and his group the Fretless won three awards at the 2012 Canadian Folk Music Awards. The group also features **Eric Wright** '09 and **Yvonne Hernandez** '10. Visit www.thefretless.com.

Kazuyo Kuriya of Kumamoto, Japan, had her arrangement of Chick Corea's "Spain" performed at Carnegie Hall in May. She also performed at the Cato Jazz Festival.

Sid Lees of Roxbury, MA, recently opened a production and recording facility called Herd Studios. Visit www.herdstudios.com.

Casimir Liberski of Brooklyn, NY, released the albums *The Coveless Way* and *The Atomic Rabbit* with his trio. They recently played at the ShapeShifter Lab in New York, and are planning a fall European tour.

Katie Martin of Richfield, PA, is currently a production singer for Carnival Cruise Line's playlist productions.



Tawonna Miller '10

2011

Singer/songwriter **Moana Aravenanti** of Saint Martin, St. Maarten, successfully completed an Indiegogo campaign to fund a new album release. Visit www.moana.com.

In January, **Concetta "Cettina" Donato** of Messina, Italy, released her second CD, a big-band and jazz quartet album, *Cettina Donato Orchestra "Crescendo"*, featuring Berklee alumni and students. Visit www.cettinadonato.com.

In March 2012, **Alessandro Lombardo** of Treviso Sull'Adda, Italy, featured drummer Steve Gadd on his YouTube channel.

Vocalist **Tawonna Miller** of Allston, MA, released the song "Straight Up Poetic." She recently toured Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. Visit www.tawonnamiller.com.

Drummer **Giuseppe Paradiso** of Medford, MA, released the album *Otherness Collection*. It features a number of Berklee alumni and students. Visit www.giuseppe-paradiso.com.

Andrew Picha of Northborough, MA, plays with the Christian worship group the Andy Needham Band. In 2012 the group released its national debut album, *Lifted High*, and performed 165 live dates. Picha is also a drum and live sound clinician for the Simply Worship Conference. Visit www.andyneedhamband.com.



Jonathan Pinson '10

Drummer **Jonathan Pinson** of Los Angeles, CA, was chosen to participate in the Monk Institute. He will be touring with Herbie Hancock this summer.

Zac Zinger of Pittsburgh, PA, was a 2013 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award winner. Visit www.zaczinger.com.

2012

Utar Artun of Boston, MA, was the recent winner of the First National Symphonic Composition Contest in Turkey for his 15-minute work *Paradox*. Visit www.myspace.com/utarartun.

Navid Martinez of Los Angeles, CA, scored the independent film *Joan in a Million* that won first prize in the Best Foreign Film category at the L.A. Indie Film Festival.

Sean Peters of Watertown, MA, practices massage and healthcare with Momentum Healthcare, LLC in Boston, MA.

In June, pianist **Matt Savage** of Francetown, NH, released his 10th album, *A Bigger Celebration*. Visit www.savagerecords.com.

2013

Jennifer Chianesi of New York City appeared in April on Bravo TV's *The Band Factory*, which follows Grammy winner Kandi Burruss as she mentors aspiring musical artists.

The Boston Globe Newspaper (Boston, MA). Article by Andrew Ryan (May 02, 2012)

(<http://bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/05/02/refurbished-boston-common-plaza-seen-place-stop-sit-down-spend-time/MqXpWwtoNaTgELfFKNKfUI/story.html>)

Brewer Fountain Plaza reopens as historic area gets facelift

In a once-forlorn corner of Boston Common, **a professional pianist sat at her instrument and played** compositions by Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Miles Davis. Two young men faced off over a chess board.

People pulled newspapers and MAGAZINES from a reading rack, sat back on new park benches, and listened to the music mingle with the bubbling of water from Brewer Fountain. A new plaza debuted Wednesday near Tremont and Park streets that may change what it means to be a park in Boston. The overhaul included more than just new granite and fresh grass. The goal is to give people who pass this corner a reason to stop, sit, and spend time in America's oldest park. "It has a different ambience than the rest of the Common," said Julia Gabberty, 24, who ate a chickpea fritter as she sat at one of the plaza's 30 new cafe tables. "It makes it a little special." Gabberty purchased her lunch from Clover Food Lab, a food truck serving vegetarian sandwiches, soups, and salads that will regularly perch near the fountain. Other new amenities include two carts with 450 books that can be perused in the plaza. A media rack will be stocked with six daily newspapers and 30 magazines for reading free of charge. Patrons can borrow boards to play chess or backgammon. The attractions on the plaza are part of a broader effort spearheaded by the Friends of the Public Garden, which also advocates for Boston Common. The entire project will cost almost \$5 million, most of it raised from private donors. It began with Brewer Fountain, a majestic 22-foot sculpture refurbished earlier, largely with money from the city. The Friends of the Public Garden raised money for the granite plaza, benches,

curbs, and pathways. Liberty Mall, a stretch of lawn that runs up from the fountain to the State House, was completely redone. It has irrigation and sod so fresh that Parks Commissioner Antonia Pollak enthused that it looked as lush as the outfield at Fenway Park. This year, renovations will focus on Lafayette Mall, a cracked path along Tremont Street that feels more like an urban sidewalk than a park. Wednesday was a day to celebrate the reopening of Brewer Fountain Plaza and the new amenities. The ceremony included speeches by lifelong parks advocate Henry Lee, Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and others. "I just know on a warm day there's going to be hundreds of people coming here," said Councilor Salvatore LaMattina, who journeyed to New York several years ago to examine that city's efforts to enliven parks. The most innovative new attraction to Brewer Fountain Plaza is the piano, which is an Ivers & Pond model built in 1885. The instrument must be stowed each night in a secure place near the Frog Pond, so a traditional piano would be difficult to keep in tune because of the bumpy foot paths and the fluctuating humidity, said Ted Furst, a parks consultant hired by the Friends of the Garden who designed the piano. To make it outdoor friendly, the piano was gutted and outfitted with a high-end Roland electronic keyboard, an eight-channel mixer, and a professional speaker system, all powered by a solar panel. The instrument can act as an amplifier, allowing several other instruments to plug in. For now, the plan is to stick with pianists such as **Concetta Donato**, who will play every weekday during lunch and some evenings. **Donato**, a recent graduate of Berklee College of Music, first played the plaza earlier this week and a homeless man stood in front of the piano and repeatedly and loudly urged **Donato** not to stop.

"It's a little different," **Donato** said, noting that pianists are not often exposed to the distractions felt by saxophone players and other street musicians. "People are walking by. The wind. But it's good." Her music drew Alice and Fabrice Piegelin into the park, where they sat at a café table and held hands. "When we heard the piano, we followed," said Alice Piegelin, a tourist from the French island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean. "It's very pleasant."

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From a monthly magazine called “Bostoniano” (March 2013), Boston, MA, USA, advertising a concert of mine in Boston on March, 15th, 2013 at Lilypad Jazz Club in Cambridge, MA, USA



SINGLE LADY ▶

Everyone loved Pasquale and Rosina Parmiggiano, but now Rosina is a “single lady” and she is better than ever before! Based in Toronto and performing for the first time in Boston on March 23 at Arlington’s Regent Theater, Rosina Parmiggiano and Friends promise to deliver heaps of fun in their unique comedic style inspired by the likes of Lucille Ball. The show also will feature musical guest Vinz DeRosa. 781-646-4849 | www.regenttheatre.com



◀ KIDS CLASSIC

Actor and theater director Massimiliano Finazzer Flory brings to life Carlo Collodi’s most famous novel in “Pinocchio: Storia di un Burattino.” Taking place at Dorchester’s Strand Theatre on March 11, this one-man show will feature Finazzer Flory interpreting several characters, all with different regional accents, talking to Pinocchio seated right in front of them. 617-635-1403 | www.strandboston.com

LOVE GAMBLE ▶

Mozart explores the battle between passion and reason through the lens of a playful and, at times, deeply serious farce in “Così fan tutte” — presented by the Boston Lyric Opera on March 15, 17, 20, 22 and 24. Set on a sunny Neapolitan beach under the looming threat of Mt. Vesuvius, two young men gamble that their fiancées will remain faithful, even under the utmost pressure. 617-542-4912 | www.blo.org



◀ BACK IN BOSTON

Berklee graduate and Messina-native Cettina Donato will return to Boston to present her latest album, “Crescendo.” A master of classical and jazz piano, Donato will perform on March 15 at the Lilypad Jazz Club in Cambridge, not far from where she recorded her new album, alternately accompanied by a big band and a string quartet. “Crescendo” was released earlier this year by Jazzy Record Label. www.lily-pad.net

VERDI @ 200 ▶

Celebrating the bicentennial of Giuseppe Verdi’s birth, the Masterworks Chorale will bring the maestro’s creative spirit to life with highlights from “La Traviata” and select opera choruses. Guest host and radio personality Ron Della Chiesa will introduce audiences to this exquisite March 15 show at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge, which also will feature guest vocal artists from the Opera Institute at Boston University. 617-496-2222



Cettina Donato Orchestra

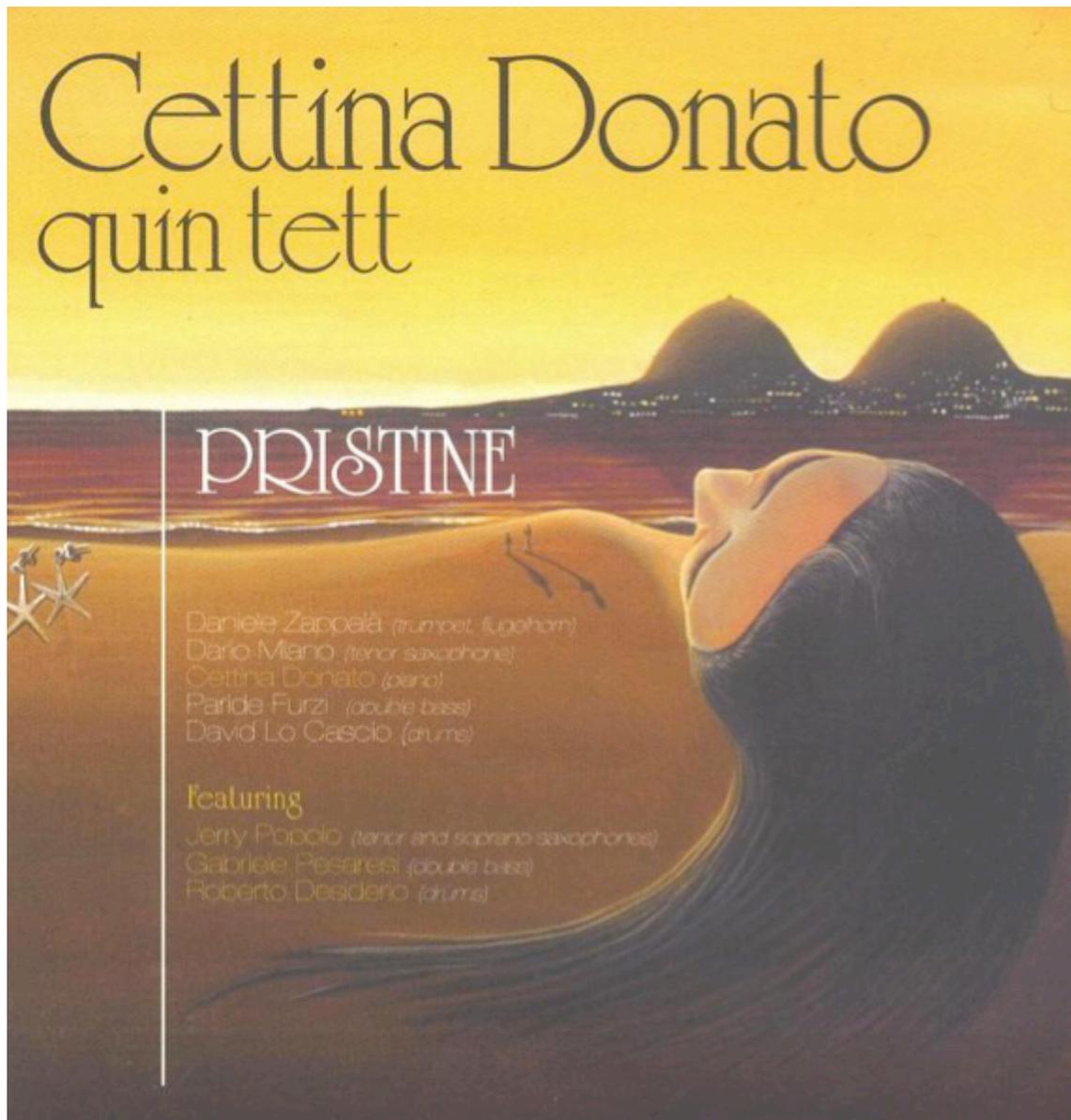
New Album CRESCENDO (Jazzy Record Label USA-Italy, February 2013, Front Cover)

This album has been awarded as one of the best Italian albums of 2013 by JazzIt Awards 2014.



Review of my first album called *PRISTINE* by Federico Angelacci (from Magazine called *Drums and Percussions*, 2009).

Pristine is the debut in the world of jazz of the young pianist **Cettina Donato** from Messina. **Cettina** arranges skillfully all the eight tunes, five are her own; three tunes are jazz standard tunes brilliantly arranged by **Cettina Donato**, such the funky *Summertime* by Gershwin, the rhythmic *A Night In Tunisia* by Dizzie Gillespie, and the wonderful ballade by Salvatore Bonafede, *Mel Lewis*. My favourite tunes are *Stromboli* and *Cum Passi Dda*, between tango and jazz. The horn sections, Dario Miano, Jerry Popolo and Daniele Zappala', play the main melody of the tunes, while the rhythmic section is assigned to Gabriele Pesaresi and Paride Furzi on double basses, David Lo Cascio and Roberto Desiderio on drums.



An article by The Friends of The Public Garden's Website about my performance at the Boston Common to celebrate the new fountain reopening with City of Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

<http://fopg.wordpress.com/2012/05/03/the-friends-of-the-public-garden-celebrate-the-brewer-fountain-plaza/>

The Friends of the Public Garden Celebrate the Brewer Fountain Plaza!

May 3, 2012

On May 2, 2012, the Friends of the Public Garden, Mayor Thomas Menino and other Bostonians gathered at the Brewer Fountain Plaza to celebrate its historic re-opening in the Boston Common. The new plaza officially opened by Park and Tremont streets. The renovation of the Brewer Fountain Plaza is just the first part of a \$5 million project to restore parts of the Boston Common. The beautiful 22-foot fountain was refurbished with help from the city of Boston as well as private donors. Along with the fountain renovation, the festivities celebrated the new amenities within the Common. This project also helped raise money for benches, pathways and lots of curbs for the area surrounding the fountain. The grass leading from the fountain to the State House of Massachusetts, known as Liberty Mall, was improved tremendously over the course of the project. The Mall now has brand-new irrigation and fresh soil that Parks Commissioner Antonia Pollak compared to the grass at Boston's beloved Fenway Park. The Brewer Fountain Plaza also has a few unique additions that will make even more special to the people of Boston. There will be lots of new chess tables with umbrellas as well as newsstands with papers, magazines and books to read! The Brewer Fountain Plaza will also have a fabulous piano available for the enjoyment of Bostonians during the nice weather! The piano, an Ivers & Pond model, was built in 1885 and designed by Ted Furst for the outdoor conditions in the park. It has an electronic keyboard, a mixer and professional speakers—the best part is that they're all solar powered! The atmosphere of the Brewer Fountain Plaza will be even more fun and enjoyable for anyone who visits.

At the ceremony, spectators heard from Henry Lee, Mayor Menino, Councilor Salvatore LaMattina, Parks Commissioner Antonia Pollak and others, including representatives from the Friends of the Public Garden. The event included placing items in a time capsule, which will be buried in the Common to commemorate the project upon its completion next year. During the event, participants were serenaded by **Cettina Donato** on the piano and Dana Oakes's beautiful trumpet.

The Friends of the Public Garden would like to thank Henry Lee, Mayor Menino, Salvatore LaMattina, Antonia Pollak and everyone else who made this amazing event possible! We hope to enjoy the Brewer Fountain Plaza and all of its renovations for many, many years to come.



(Pianist **Cettina Donato** on piano and Dana Oakes, trumpet)

From the website www.online-news.it *A Proposito di Jazz* (by Gerlando Gatto, February 3rd, 2009).

Let's Focus on Sicilian Influence by **Cettina Donato**

Good news from the land of Sicily: after the great success of critics about her first album, the pianist **Cettina Donato** presents her new project called Sicilian Influence with an ensemble all Sicilian with Pucci Nicosia on drums, Vincenzo Virgillito on double bass and Dario Miano on tenor sax. The musical proficiencies and knowledge of the pianist **Cettina Donato** are multiples: classical music, jazz music, various compositional techniques allow **Cettina** to experiment the various and different musical solutions. Every tune is developed in a way to be like a painting that shows a mood of a soul, like a portrait of it was fixed and particular.

Cettina Donato studied classical piano graduating at the Conservatory of Reggio Calabria (Italy). She studied, then, jazz music with Salvatore Bonafede. Graduated in Musical Didactic, Jazz Music with the honors, she graduated in Educational Sciences at the University of Messina (Italy) talking about a thesis called Studying music and feeling self efficacy, reviewing all students of the Conservatories of Messina and Palermo (Sicily, Italy). She attended various musical courses in order to perfection her musical skills with some of the most important jazz musicians of jazz area: Hal Galper, Billy Harper (New York School University), Garrison Fewell, Matthew Nicholl, Russ Hoffmann, Scott Free, Ron Savage (Berklee College Of Music), Salvatore Bonafede, Giovanni Mazzarino, Dario Deidda, Dado Moroni, Bob Mintzer. She earned a scholarship at Umbria Jazz Festival in 2008 in order to attend the Berklee College of Music (Boston). Recently, as I talked about earlier in this review, **Cettina**'s first album called PRISTINE was published by Wide Sound Label. For this album **Cettina** arranged and composed all the tunes. **Cettina** is teaching Educational Music and studies jazz piano and jazz composition with Salvatore Bonafede.

From a Jazz blog called "A Proposito di Jazz" by the Jazz Journalist Gerlando Gatto, Rome, Italy, March, 15th 2011

Great Success for Cettina Donato at Berklee College of Music in Boston.



Great success for the Sicilian piano player **Cettina Donato** at the moment at Berklee College of Music. The *Jazz Revelation Records* is a label that once a year publishes an album showing the best student composers in the Berklee College of Music. This year, 24 students were chosen over 300 applications and at the end only 12 students were awarded. Indeed, **Cettina Donato** and other 11 students. The contract ties **Cettina** and the Music Label for a year long, with concerts, tv shows around United States.

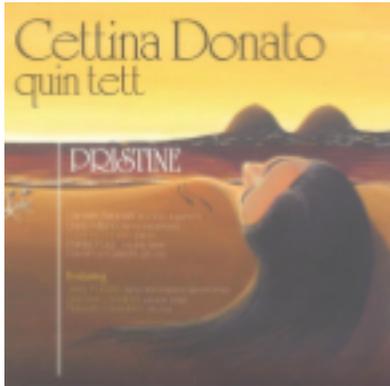
Cettina will be part of the Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra. She did an audition as classical piano player and the conductor chose her. So, **Cettina Donato** is not performing as only jazz piano player but as classical piano player as well. There will be, In April, a very important concert at Jordan Hall in Boston. The Jordan Hall is one of the most famous music hall in the world with an extraordinary acoustic. The Orchestra will perform some compositions by Michael Daugherty, an American composer who just a few weeks ago won a Grammy as best composer.

Cettina received the Carla Bley Award as best composer, prestigious award offered by the Jazz Composition Major.

Cettina is also working at Berklee College as a Tutor, teaching Classical and Jazz Harmony, Ear Training, Composition, Arranging.

Cettina Donato is performing around Boston for the Berklee College of Music. Some concerts as bandleader, others as Sideman. In April there will be an important concert at Berklee Performance Center.

From a jazz website called *Jazz Convention*, review of my album *Pristine* by Luca Labrini (Wide Sound, 2008)
(http://www.jazzconvention.net/jc/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41:cettina-donato-pristine&catid=2:recensioni&Itemid=4)



Cettina Donato: piano
Daniele Zappala': trumpet
Dario Miano: Tenor Sax
Paride Furzi: Double bass
David Lo Cascio: drums
Jerry Popolo: Tenor and Soprano Saxes
Gabriele Pesaresi: Double Bass
Roberto Desiderio: Drums

Pristine is the interesting **Cettina Donato**'s debut released in 2008 for Wider Look Label. The Sicilian piano player comes from a classical background graduating at the Conservatory of Reggio Calabria in 1999 and studying music jazz as well with the piano player Salvatore Bonafede, who is celebrated in this album with a personal interpretation of Mel Lewis, dedicated to the American drummer. For this debut **Cettina Donato** chose the quintet as ensemble with guests Jerry Popolo on saxes, Gabriele Pesaresi on double bass and Roberto Desiderio on drums. At the beginning of the album, *Conchita Blues*, with two saxes and a trumpet, the **Donato**'s piano leads the ensemble. Next tune, *Stromboli*, remembers the modal blues while *Camera Con Vista* is more intimate than the other tunes. The fourth tune is a standard, *Summertime* by Gershwin followed by a wonderful *Waltz Time*, maybe the most beautiful tune of the album, performed by the quartet with **Cettina Donato** on piano, Jerry Popolo on Sax, David Lo Cascio on drums and Paride Furzi on double bass. At the end of the album, *Mel Lewis* by Salvatore Bonafede and *A Night In Tunisia* by Dizzie Gillespie. This album is for sure an interesting debut, about the musical writing and the musical exposition.