

MORENO PADOAN – UNTIL THE NUMBNESS

It doesn't always happen that a musician proposes a work that completely floors his audience, but is also true that, particularly in the electronic music field, different projects are easily linked to different emanations of the same person, and it's listening to the diversity of the music of an artist that it's possible to truly define him as creative.

It would be too simple, sometimes like several artists do, to propose what people would listen to, but with **Until the numbness**, **Moreno Padoan** puts himself into his music and, in particular, into a really heavy period of his life, and makes a very ambitious work, experimental and rich of facets, a thing that, if makes his work uneasy to be classified (and it's a good thing, except for who tries to talk about it with words), expresses itself as a work that will be remembered for its uniqueness into a landscape that often is too much linked to the concept of "genre's music".

Until the numbness, it's important to specify it, isn't an easy work, as will ask you to be concentrated, and the emotions written in these songs will be directly transmitted to yourself, emotionally engaging yourself, above all thanks to the clear piano sound and to the patterns that, according to the different compositions, portrait different moods: *Can't wake up*, the *opener*, slightly recalls even a certain minimalism present in the works of **Michael Nyman** made for **Peter Greenaway**, bringing in itself a rather detached mood, while *Consequence* has a rather sad mood.

The particular thing about this work is that, when present, the piano has the role of being the rhythmic section, instead of being dependent on drum machines's rhythms, as usually happens. The patterns drawn by the piano perfectly coexist along with synthesized sounds that are particularly soft and free to flow in the compositions, and along with the occasional violin presence, an element that increases the pathos of the songs (as happens in *A glimmer*) and, according to the song, along with weakened breakbeat / IDM rhythms as well as dry and recursive distant and martial beats, such as those present in *Anything* or that metronomic of the long and final ambient suite *Erase everything*, that scan the time of the music and of the heart. This last song seems to express that time can be a useful tool, but not the only one, to erase what happens to us.

This perfect merging of musical instruments and sounds generates non typical compositions constantly balanced between tension and distension, a fact that is already perceivable in the cited *A glimmer*. That electronic sound that rise corresponds to a try to return from the abyss, without having the sufficient strenght to do it. *Anything* is an interesting sonic riding that starts murmured and then is sustained by a deep electronic rhythmic upon which, afterwards, a soundtrack-like theme which recalls epic battles rises, such as that that the character, the Musician, faces. Another particularly interesting and variable song is *The numbness*, that shows a broken rhythmic IDM-like which role, into the song, is to express the psychological instability (counterposed to the stability of the squared 4 / 4 rhythm). The short and murmured techno-ish riding is the right ending. In the end, the song goes back into the oblivion. *Holding my breath* is the catchiest song, oriented to a soft kind of synth pop, thanks to its squared structured rhythm and covered by an ambient rarefied atmosphere. The patterns here express anxiety and the waiting for something.

In general, this is one of the few albums in which the tracklist and the order in which the songs should be listened isn't random, in fact these have to be listened in that particular order in order to fully understand, as *Until the numbness* is, more than simply being an album, the narration of a

timelapse which could be divided in nine segments: the anxiety that doesn't allow to sleep, the draining waiting for a signal, the consequence of a fact on the mind and on the physical body of who has to accept something that is negative, the acceptance and the human need to restart once again, the numbness that obstruct the process of recovery (and the thousands of thoughts that agitate into the head), the sight of a glimmer of hope, the long journey through the oblivion to reach a new stability, the sensation of feeling empty and, in the end, the try of erasing, or better, of storing what has happened, to restart, step by step, to live a new normality.

This is, in short terms, what Until the numbness has to offer. The story of a path as many others and a try to exorcize personal problems by means of music, the expressive language that the Musician knows better than anything else, and then is natural that Moreno Padoan leaves his songs talk for himself. It's that numbness that delivers Until the numbness as an album difficult to classify, and it's in the worst moments that artists shape their best works. This album isn't an exception.

Score: 8

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