

SARAH NEUFELD

Hero Brother

CD / 180gLP / DL

STREET DATE: 20 AUGUST 2013

- DEBUT SOLO RECORD BY THE VIOLINIST FROM ARCADE FIRE & BELL ORCHESTRE
- RECORDED IN BERLIN BY ACCLAIMED PRODUCER AND PIANIST NILS FRAHM, WHO ALSO PLAYS ON TWO SONGS

Sarah Neufeld is a violinist and composer based in Montréal, Canada. Best known as a member of Arcade Fire, she is also a founding member of the acclaimed contemporary instrumental ensemble Bell Orchestre and has performed and recorded with many other groups, including The Luyas, Esmerine and Little Scream.

Neufeld began developing pieces for solo violin in a more formal and focused sense in 2011, counting Bela Bartok, Steve Reich, Iva Bittova and Arthur Russell among the formative influences for her solo work, in tandem with an ear for the textures and sensibilities of indie rock, avant-folk and contemporary electro-acoustic music. Neufeld's debut solo album **Hero Brother** channels all of the above, flowing through shifting atmospheres and oscillating between stately ambience, restrained emotive études, and raw kinetic energy.

Hero Brother was recorded in Berlin by pianist and producer **Nils Frahm**, documenting Neufeld's performances in a number of locations with site-specific acoustics, including an abandoned geodesic dome, a parking garage, and the legendary Studio P4 orchestral recording hall at the broadcast complex of the former GDR. Frahm also plays on two songs.

Title track "Hero Brother" sweeps and slides with a driving Balkan fiddle flavour, replete with subtle dynamic shifts and accented by Neufeld's boot stomping the floor like a massive timpani drum. "You Are The Field" is pastoral and windswept, marked by see-sawing arpeggiation and overtones excited by the natural reverberation of an empty hall. "Wrong Thought", "Right Thought" and "Sprinter Fire" offer further extrapolations from the intersection of folk/fiddle tropes, modern/Minimalist composition, and art-punk grit. "Breathing Black Ground" is appropriately grounded in a majestic drone courtesy of Frahm's harmonium playing, while "Forcelessness" is punctuated by solemn piano accents again from Frahm, resulting in two of the album's darkest and most cinematic pieces. The record as a whole unfolds as a cohesive, transporting and engagingly idiosyncratic soundtrack of solo violin music, teeming with diverse timbres, techniques and ambience.

Sarah has presented her solo music at BAM (Brooklyn), the WSO New Music Festival (Winnipeg) and Wavelength Festival (Toronto), of which Exclaim magazine wrote: "the highlight of the night was most certainly Sarah Neufeld, whose compositions range from Reichian to folksy without skipping a beat; she uses violin squeals, growls, scrapes and slides to express varying emotions and stomps the stage beneath her for percussion." Constellation is delighted to be releasing this debut album of Sarah Neufeld's recorded solo work.



CONSTELLATION CST095

ARTIST: SARAH NEUFELD

TITLE: Hero Brother

1. Tower
2. Hero Brother
3. Dirt
4. You Are The Field
5. Breathing Black Ground
6. They Live On
7. Wrong Thought
8. Right Thought
9. Sprinter Fire
10. Forcelessness
11. Below

GENRE: Avant-Garde Classical / Indie Rock

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