

K. LEIMER

A Period of Review

For the third installment in RVNG Intl.'s archival series, the tape is wound back to 1970s Seattle, home place of ambient music savant **K. Leimer**. *A Period of Review* (Original Recordings: 1975–1983) unearths unreleased portions of Leimer's vast archives and highlights the work of a self-taught visionary whose use of generative compositions ferried his music to infinite resonance.

Kerry Leimer was born in Winnipeg, Canada. He was raised in Chicago before his family permanently settled in Seattle in 1967. Kerry's teenage interests and artistic experiments blossomed from the seductively strange tendrils of Dadaism and Surrealism. In the early 70s, Leimer found musical parallels to these visual movements by studying import copies of *NME* and *Melody Maker* and inquiring with local record store clerks about the exotic descriptions he read of **Can**, **Neu!** and **Faust**—innovators who were bringing the wild dictates of 60s art-discourse into music.

The tape-manipulated serenity Leimer experienced with **Cluster's** *II* was a key revelation. Leimer realized the potential to compose with minimal training and scoured pawnshops for cheap instruments and recording equipment to transpose his wayward musical instincts. Leimer's sound palette and composition soon refined and heightened with the accessibility of dynamic equipment such as the Micromoog and TEAC multi-track tape machines.

Synchronously, the **Terry Riley** indebted loop-based compositions of **Robert Fripp** and **Brian Eno's** *No Pussyfooting* inspired Leimer to form recursive musical passages of bare timbre and melody that would become hallmarks of his sound. "The loop provided an instant structure—a sort of fatalism," recalls Leimer in *A Period of Review's* liner notes. "The participation of the tape machine in shaping and extending the music was a key to setting self-deterministic systems in motion and held a clear relationship to my interests in fine art."

The underground music scene of Seattle/Olympia in late 70s was small but seeded. The vestiges of prog rock pompously pummeled the few clubs and record shops before punk and New Wave became the rage. Leimer sought to support a growing community of experimental composers by launching the Palace of Lights record label in 1979 with his wife **Dorothy Cross** (this was years prior to the birth of regional titans **K Records** and **Sub Pop**).

Leimer rarely performed live, averting the litmus of instant appreciation for his solitary studio pursuits. Tellingly, the "K." that abbreviated Leimer's first name was a nod to Kafka's doomed pariah Josef K (from *The Trial* and *The Castle*). This gives a sense of the reclusive and literary realm Leimer was fond of working in. Despite his reticence, Leimer's debut 1980 album *Closed System Potentials* would reach a receptive audience, and eventually sell more than 3,000 copies thanks in part to Cross's persistent advocacy to independent distributors and magazines.

A Period of Review focuses on unheard material outside of the work Leimer offered on **Palace of Lights**, though even that music could be considered relatively "unheard." The thirty tracks of *A Period of Review* may have remained a mystery on moldy reels until now, but Leimer's entire catalog of generative music remains pristine in its absolute power.

Liner notes were crafted by Seattle writer **David Segal**. Top-tier mastering was done by **Greg Davis**, who produced the compilation with Palace of Lights artist **Robert Carlberg**. RVNG and Kerry Leimer himself, who continues making music to this day.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Hometown: Seattle, Washington
- Key Markets: New York, London, Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, Chicago, Tokyo
- RYL: Brian Eno, Arthur Russell, Cluster, Craig Leon, Woo, 4th World Music
- A collection of thirty unheard tracks from pioneering ambient / experimental producer K. Leimer
- *A Period of Review* fits in nicely with 2013's *I Am the Center* and *Isas* collections while maintaining its own identity of innovation
- K. Leimer's catalog is widely sought after by record collectors around the globe
- Expert mastering by Greg Davis, liner notes by K. Leimer and Dave Segal
- Double LP packaging features unique reverse flap exterior, full color Eurosleeves, 16-page booklet and download card
- CD packaging features unique reverse flap exterior, full color inner sleeve, and 20-page booklet

2xLP UPC: 798295512178

CD UPC: 798295512185



K. Leimer — A Period of Review

TRACK LISTING

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 01 Ceylon | 12 Honey To Ashes | 23 Eno's Aviary |
| 02 My Timid Desires | 13 Stop It! | 24 Almost Chinese |
| 03 From A Common Center | 14 Two Voices | 25 Agfa / Lupa |
| 04 Explanation of Terms | 15 Lonely Boy | 26 The Phonic Chasm
(feat. Dawn Seago) |
| 05 From One To Ten | 16 Practical Demonstration | 27 Acquiescence |
| 06 Entr'acte | 17 Commercial | 28 Malaise |
| 07 Bump In The Night | 18 Gisella | 29 All Sad Days |
| 08 (aka accident) | 19 Archie's Dub | 30 Porcelain
(feat. Nancy Estle) |
| 09 Facing East | 20 Ikumi | |
| 10 At Daybreak | 21 Reassurances | |
| 11 A Spiritual Life | 22 Assemble and Diffuse | |

CAT

ARTIST

TITLE

GENRE

RELEASE DATE

FORMATS

2xLP BOX LOT

CD BOX LOT

ReRVNG03

K. Leimer

A Period of Review

Ambient, Fourth World, Generative, Electronic

May 12, 2014 (UK) / May 13, 2014 (US, ROW)

2xLP, CD, Digital

Vinyl Is Not Returnable

35

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