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Jozif - Sunrise EP on Infine Music



T's surely been a year to remember for London based artist Jozif, with a solid run of singles and remixes for the likes of Wolf + Lamb, No19 Music, Vitalik Recordings, his own new Fist or Finger imprint (which he runs with revered Fabric resident Craig Richards) and now this, the Sunrise EP on Agoria's Infine Music.

The name says a lot about not only this release, but about most of <code>Jozif</code>'s music to date: it's deep house, yes, but sounds little like anything else out there at the moment. Anything he puts his name to seems infused with an idiosyncratic and beachy blissfulness, a picturesque sunset/sunrise calm and a glowing, earthy warmth.

A lot of that comes from the genuine musicality the man inserts into his records. The melody lines he employs are not just staple chords or clichéd strings, but rather glorious breakdowns or fluttering crescendos imbued with a life of their own and all played by the man himself. The four tracks here offer all that and more, and make for a diverse package which plays as coherently yet diversely as does any decent mini album: it's impressive stuff.

'Sunrise' opens proceedings with a mirage-like shimmer of echoes and rippling samples before a deep bass kick pins things down. Pure organic sounds and rising layers of heat continue to swell for nine minutes (never does it get boring) whilst tinkling keys tweak at the heart strings and woody percussion keep things moving on. Sure to take you up, down, or simply round and round depending on its placing, 'Sunrise' is a beautiful record and no mistake.

'Suddenly Something' is slightly more up-tempo though retains
some of Sunrise's lateral spread courtesy of the immersive, languid
and long-tailed keys which seep through the staggered beats the whole way through. Like all the tracks here there's a sense the sounds you

hear have been played in a room and recorded on an old mic rather than processed in the cold, digital core of a computer.

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attrai Nature foods in and in on itself as it goes about its darkened house business. Squietry sounds and nints of naturing numar vocals all suggest a storm is brewing which never quite breaks. There's a tension and noir edge to this track which suggests Jozif is not all sunshine and light, but as quickly as the darkness falls it lifts again for EP closer, 'Cathy's Diamonds'. It's resplendent in uplifting, hug-your-mate strings, elastic drums and hip-swinging hand claps and will have you revelling in its tasteful euphoria again and again.

The more introverted 'Natural Nature' aside, the tracks here all have a hummable hookiness to them which stays with you long after they have finished playing; they wind their way into your conscious and float about like dandelions on a warm breeze. On the dancefloor they'd raise both smiles and hands, whilst at home they sounds just as good. Alluring and appealing in equal measure, Jozif's sound is, for my money, one of the hottest around.



