

northcape

Melodic electronica/ ambient/ IDM
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Biography

Northcape is the ongoing work of a mainly self-taught British artist who has felt compelled to produce music ever since he got his first cheap Casio keyboard, and has been releasing music on the internet since 2003. Inspired by nature and science as well as personal experience, the music is an attempt to capture and translate moments, environments, landscapes and memory that would be difficult to express in any other way. Northcape is not concerned about genre, but the music sits within the broad range encompassed by melodic electronica, IDM and ambient. It tries to avoid over-complexity and focussing too much on the technology and techniques used. The result is a distinctively personal-sounding form of downtempo electronic music that draws elements from various genres and combines ambience and depth with a strong sense of melody, and, despite its melancholic moments, a fundamental optimism.

Northcape has gained a dedicated following online, including almost a quarter of a million plays (to date) on last.fm, and inclusion on a large number of podcasts. There has also been airplay on a range of radio stations, including BBC local radio, and extensive airplay on the widely-available Soma.fm radio station. Northcape has been interviewed by Computer Music Magazine, as part of an article on lo-fi electronica, and more recently by Echoes radio station in the US. Northcape has also been involved in a number of compilation albums and remix projects, most recently 2013's "Ancestors" EP for n5md's Dalot.

Several previous albums including 'Detach' were self-released online, with a steadily growing number of fans. Following a well-received EP "Some Bright Valley" released through long-running and respected netlabel monotonic (sadly, now on hiatus), the critically-acclaimed 2010 album 'Captured From Static' was released on US independent label Sun Sea Sky Productions. This album was the culmination of an extended period of work widening and deepening the Northcape sound. The more ambient 'Alluvial' EP followed on the Elpa netlabel.

The latest album 'Exploration and Ascent', also on Sun Sea Sky, is a clear progression from 'Captured From Static', retaining Northcape's characteristic downtempo melodic sensibility while including something of the more textured ambience showcased on 2011's 'Alluvial' EP. 'Exploration and Ascent' is inspired by Himalayan exploration, and in particular by Bill Tilman and Eric Sipton's 1934 search for a way into the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, and the remarkably vividly written record by Eric Sipton of the expedition. A remix album of the release included a number of the artist's own favourite independent electronic producers.

Northcape's new "Glasshouse" EP for the same label has, in places, a similarly expansive feel, but also takes more local and small-scale influences from the varied shapes and organic and genetic diversity in a tropical greenhouse near the artist's home. It comprises six tracks of deliberately uncomplicated downtempo electronica with an analogue-inspired melodic sound. The focus is on detailed, atmospheric leads, deep underlying bass, and gently textured distortion.

Press reviews of "Exploration and Ascent"

"Northcape seems to have really found his niche with this one as the album features carefully crafted melodies that can, and do, conjure up visions of distant snowy peaks, crisp blue skies, and melting glaciers where clouds seem to be just within grasp."

n5md

"If you're into experimental music with a hint of post-rock and a large influence of ambient music then you're looking at the right place!... Exploration and Ascent is pure machine soul, reminiscent of forgotten landscapes, timeless and spaceless... Many of you that love electronic and ambient music will enjoy Exploration and Ascent for it's escapism; it's not important where you are..."

Echoes and Dust (Daniela Patrizi)

"There is a North Cape somewhere in Norway. Herring seas and 'Mackerel Sky' no doubt. It is a place to view the midnight sun. I imagine Exploration and Ascent would make the perfect accompaniment. Outdoor sporty types, if you like IDM and downtempo music get Northcape. Wear Northcape. Fly."

[sic] Magazine

"The album's flow and pacing is impeccable, such that by the time the last track "Carbon" trails off into a crackle of static that evokes a dying campfire, we feel that we have traveled to the high places, then been brought safely home by a skilled and compassionate guide."

Igloo Magazine (Eric Sorenson)



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