



KING CREOSOTE (SCOT)

Astronaut Meets Appleman

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Web: http://www.kingcreosote.com

EPK: irascible.ch/de/releases/king-creosote/astronaut-meets-appleman

Astronaut Meets Appleman explores the tension and harmony between tradition and technology – between analogue and digital philosophies – and also invokes a feeling, King Creosote (otherwise known as Fife's Kenny Anderson) says, of "being caught between heaven and earth". Astronaut Meets Appleman follows King Creosote's breakthrough record From Scotland With Love (2014) and his Mercury-nominated collaboration with Jon Hopkins, Diamond Mine (2011). It arrives replete with a chamber-rock rabble and then some: harps and bagpipes come as standard, as does silence. The first track to be shared is the album's opener 'You Just Want'. A sevenminute piece of hymnal drone-pop, its touchstones are the art of patience, scenes of mild bondage and Venus (in Furs).

Elsewhere on the record, 'Melin Wynt' is a lilting bagpipe-techno odyssey. KC explains "It's an anti-wind turbine song, from a place called windmill. There are no windmills there." This sense of place, disorientation and absence (in space, time, nature, hearts) underpins Astronaut Meets Appleman – most literally, perhaps, in the silence that unfolds amidst crestfallen lullaby 'Rules of Engagement'. Or, as he intones on philharmonic lament 'Faux Call', "it's the silence that somehow says it all'.

The KC idiom – equal parts geometry, self-deprecation, cosmic wonder and seafaring poetry – remains intact on the forthcoming album, as does his knack for a killer couplet (see drive-pop calypso 'Love Life': "Her jealous accusations know no bounds / Scarlett Johansson was never in my house"). But there is a renewed sense of space and letting the music breathe (lead, even) on the album – all the better to showcase a stunning ensemble cast that includes Catriona McKay (harp), Mairearad Green (bagpipes), Gordon Maclean (double bass), Hannah Fisher (violin, vocals), Sorren Maclean (guitar, vocals) and Pete Harvey (cello), alongside KC's regular rock diviners, and his baby daughter Louie Wren (on ambient reverie, 'Peter Rabbit Tea').

On *Astronaut Meets Appleman*, King Creosote is still upsetting apple-carts and dealing with the fallout, still appraising love and life, the moon, the stars; tide tables, bagpipe scores, zeros and ones; mathematics, ticking clocks and the beat of our hearts.