

## Art Music for Bass New CD From Jay A Turner

It's a clever maneuver, to kick off a new release (Art Music for Bass) with a tune entitled Question. Jay Turner's opening track sets a gorgeous repeating figure on bass against a sparse and funky background clean enough to eat off of. Thematically, the tune is a courageous initial step. According to Jay, the song "defines the time between the question and answer; the insanity of expectations. Once the question is asked, Jay answers with compositions that twist and dive into a deep red, velvety pool of aural delight, exploring that time between the question and the answer with bass tones like deep-sea divers discovering pearls.

Lament, an oddly joyous piece is tempered by a lovely trumpet solo and backed by drums playing just behind the beat, lending the tune a necessary gravitas. It's a lovely thing with a beatnik vibe, groovy and laid-back.

The first of several solo tracks for bass is the 'verb-drenched 4th track 'Sustenance'. The piece rumbles along, covering the fret-board with imagination and a sense of place. It's a kind of 1 minute, fifty-nine second Master-class in bass technique, tone, and melody.

The vaguely martial feel in the first seconds of Winter's Field quickly give way to the kind of cool vibe that would make Christopher Walken happy. A kind of surprised happiness pervades the tune.

Winter's Field gives way to the cd's second solo bass thing, the magnificent, and appropriately titled Ashes From The Wings of Angels. If the archangel Gabriel played a bass instead of a horn, it is not difficult to imagine that this tone would be exactly what he'd hope to find. Jay Turner has managed to do the impossible. He has created a solo bass piece that is neither derivative, nor boring, but instead dips like a butterfly and swoops like a bee, pushing the melody forward in waves of basstones deep enough to stimulate one's third eye.

And, as though intentionally saving the most powerful for last, December glides out of the stereo like an ambient version of winter melancholy given waveform. Floating tones warble and rise and fall underneath a bass solo so sad and lovely... Visions of blue light on snow, a dusky snowfall, the indescribable sound of snowflakes hitting the ground...

Jay Turner has managed something big with this CD. He, along with a group of musicians who clearly understand his intentions and desires, has created Art. Not in the pretentious and self-serving sense, but Art for people who don't even know that they love the bass yet. People who love art, and who've never imagined a bassist making a bass-centric cd that could bear the term. This is a beautiful piece of music in a world desperately in need of such.

[www.jayaturner.net](http://www.jayaturner.net)