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Album Reviews

SARAH FIMM, "Nexus"

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Sarah Fimm's second album, "A Perfect Dream," was a diamond buried deep in the indie underground: a brilliant and durable gem worth mining that no doubt will increase in value. Likewise, Fimm's new "Nexus" is another rare jewel. Whereas the songs from "Dream" were very separate entities, the 15 cuts winding through "Nexus" transition into each other almost seamlessly, creating a chilled-out dimension, one that is vast and colored with celestial imagery.

The mood they evoke is at times soothing ("Space Journey") and stirring ("Velocity," "Mercury"). You'll find yourself roused by the trippy grooves in "Story of Us," then calmed by "Paradise." Several songs contain littler more than Fimm's tranquil voice and piano or keyboards, which accentuate the lofty atmospheres with electro gurgles, whirls or heartbeats.

But Fimm can also speak more profoundly with lulls of delicate sound and breaths of silence than many can with words. "Walk Away" shifts the ambience into one of deep melancholy that is carried through "December" and blooms in a mournful cello on "Orchids." The windy, eerie landscape of a distant planet surrounds "Great Wide Open" before reaching the finale "Storytime," a brief piano interlude that could be felt as either joy or grief. Fimm's artistry is a creature of great emotion and subtle nuance. We bow to its delicate yet powerful beauty.