

Blackford Hill / Forthcoming Release

Artist: **Makushin**
Title: **Move into the Luminous**
Format: **10-tracks on 12" vinyl and digital download**
Released: **27th October 2023**
Cat. No.: **BH017**

Makushin / Move into the Luminous

***Move into the Luminous* is the sublime debut album from Makushin, a group whose work explores the intersection between folk, jazz and ambient music. Double bassist Jon Thorne, guitarist Peter Philipson and singer Nancy Elizabeth lead an inspiring collective on this richly layered and immersive collaboration. The whole album has a natural, unforced aesthetic and features some notable instrumentalists who bring saxophone, piano, drums, violin and synths to the sound palette.**

The lyrical themes deal with subjects such as the illumination of the moon, the observation of nature and attempting to slow the course of time. The varied musical influences range from the early 1970s recordings of John Martyn with Danny Thompson, the ambient albums made by David Sylvian and Holger Czukay, records by Joni Mitchell, Beth Gibbons, and the musical aesthetic of ECM Records.

More Easily is a standout track, featuring bright, jangling guitar and a warmth that calls to mind David Crosby's solo album *If Only I Could Remember My Name*, and this features Andrew Wasyluk's gentle vibraphone and Rhodes piano to complement Nancy's pure voice. The shimmering guitar work on the track *Something Something* evokes the Cocteau Twins while *Look Up Now* and *Everything New* soar with Nancy's keening vocals and the honey-sweet richness of the growling double bass.

By contrast, the percussive storm on the instrumental track *Landscape* takes an ambient jazz approach and features some inspirational saxophone work by Martin Slattery and free improv drumming by Andrew Cheetham. Another friend of the trio, David A Jaycock, makes an appearance playing additional electric guitar on two of the tracks.

The band name refers to Mount Makushin, an active volcano in Alaska, and this was inspired by the book *The Cruise of the Corwin*, written by Scottish-born American naturalist John Muir, where he vividly described Makushin as the "most noble volcano" he saw on an Alaskan expedition in 1881.

About Makushin

Nancy Elizabeth is a singer and multi-instrumentalist who has released three chamber folk albums under her own name on the Leaf Label. She has also previously played with James Yorkston and recorded with the late ambient composer Susumu Yokota.

Jon Thorne is a double bassist best known as a member of the pioneering electronic band Lamb and, more recently, Yorkston Thorne Khan. He has worked with many other musicians, including Jon Hopkins, Robert Fripp and his mentor Danny Thompson, as well as releasing his own music.

Peter Philipson is a guitarist who has previously performed with Jane Weaver as her guitarist for a decade and has collaborated with her and Raz Ullah on two ambient albums under the artist name of Fenella. He has also released a number of instrumental guitar albums under his PJ Philipson guise.

For further information, please contact Simon Lewin via info@blackford-hill.co.uk or **07788 119911**.