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Scott DuBois
Summer Water

There is something entrancing about the natural cycle of water. There is the constant ebb and flow. Then there are the nearly limitless variations, like the lightness of sprinkling rain, babbling brooks or the relentless force of crashing waves and storms. The variety and fluidity of bodies of water has always fascinated guitarist/composer **Scott DuBois** and inspires his first solo guitar recording, ***Summer Water***, which is also the first recording on his new record label / publishing company, **Watertone Music**.

Over the course of the past twenty years, DuBois has looked to nature and the seasons to inform his compositions. Recently he has begun to expand his writing to include orchestral music, composing a symphony and a violin concerto, among his other classical works. These experiences have expanded his compositional style and the way he hears music, as DuBois has begun to add this symphonic influence throughout all of his music, regardless of genre. He has created Watertone Music to capture this new direction.

DuBois's 2015 album, *Winter Light* (ACT), began a series of recordings featuring music inspired by the four seasons that would be performed by varied ensembles. *Winter Light* featured DuBois's quartet of the past 15 years, featuring Gebhard Ullmann, Thomas Morgan and Kresten Osgood, while his 2017 album, *Autumn Wind* (ACT), added a string and wind ensemble in addition to his quartet.

Summer Water is the third release in the series and a true departure for DuBois. The view of Lake Michigan from his window was a daily reminder of the range of water's expressive forces. During the bone-chilling Chicago winter of 2019, he wrote pieces for solo guitar that would not only utilize his symphonic compositional voice but would emulate the sound without the use of overdubs, loops or layering. DuBois has captured the textures and colors of an orchestra and has maintained a bold sound, not just in terms of volume, but in the intensity, much as one hears from an orchestra, whether loud or soft. He has also created great variety within the sound and the compositions, an important aspect of his work. All of this was accomplished with the barest of essentials: a solo guitar.

Here are *Summer Water's* structure and journeys described in DuBois's own words:

The first five pieces and the last five pieces mirror each other musically: pieces one and eleven, two and ten, three and nine, etc.—essentially sets of musical variations. The first five pieces are a journey through a river, the last five pieces a journey through a sea, both meeting in the central “Storm Where the River Meets the Sea.” Listeners are invited to start their journeys at either end of the album.

The river is consumed by fog, otters soon appearing as shadowy shapes through the haze. Driftwood lingers along the shore before continuing its journey to a remote place.

Sunbeams lance through the mist, glistening on the river's rushing rapids brimming with life. In the distance a storm prepares to breach the light.

Thunder, lightning, and fierce wind clamor above the clash of the river and sea, pelted by rain.



Charcoal clouds haunt the sky. Sunlight sparkles on the sea's mighty waves.

Driftwood continues its odyssey as otters frolic. Fog enshrouds the sea.

Scott DuBois Biography:

Praised by *The New York Times* as having “begun to make waves” with his “exploratory yet melodic sensibilities” and “serious compositional ambitions,” guitarist/composer Scott DuBois’s music is described by *JazzTimes* as “fascinating” and “brilliant”; by *All About Jazz* as “wondrous, chilling, atmospheric, and powerful as can be”; and by *The New York City Jazz Record* as “captivating music for the meditative thinker.”

In 2005, DuBois was selected as a Semi-Finalist in the Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition. Shortly after he started touring extensively with the Scott DuBois Quartet, performing at jazz festivals, concert halls, and clubs throughout North America and Europe.

DuBois has recorded two albums with Dave Liebman for the Soul Note record label, *Monsoon* (2004) and *Tempest* (2006), and three albums for the Sunnyside record label, *Banshees* (2008), *Black Hawk Dance* (2010), and *Landscape Scripture* (2012). His *Landscape Scripture* album was named one of the “Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2012” by National Public Radio.

In 2015, DuBois signed with the ACT record label and released his sixth album, *Winter Light*, which was named as one of the best “Albums of the Year” by the *New York City Jazz Record*, one of the “Best Releases of 2016” by *All About Jazz*, and one of the “Best Albums of the Year 2016” by *All About Jazz Italia*.

In 2017, DuBois released on the ACT record label his *Autumn Wind* album, adding a string and woodwind octet in addition to his quartet. The album was named one of the “Best Releases of 2017” by *All About Jazz*, called a “delicately-complex masterpiece” by Germany’s *Fono Forum* magazine, and a “fascinating masterpiece” by Austria’s *Kulturzeitschrift*.

In 2018, DuBois won Germany’s ECHO Award, Germany’s top prize for music and the German equivalent of the Grammy, for his *Autumn Wind* album.

DuBois was named in *DownBeat Magazine*’s 2019 Critic’s Poll in the “Rising Star Guitar” category.

In 2021, DuBois launched his Watertone Music record label/publishing company to record and publish his music.

For More Info: Scott DuBois / press@scottdubois.com