



Through the interaction of dulcet textures and harmonious melodies – infused with Greek bouzouki string plucks, sporadic piano and violin, enigmatic Alexandria, Virginia born musician **Gabriel Brady** laments the everyday with daring simplicity on his lustrous ambient / alt-folk debut ***Day-blind*** for the Tonal Union imprint, to be released June 13th. The album announces today with the release of the track '**Land and Sea**', featuring the distinctly warm enveloping presence of the eight string *Greek bouzouki* (a long-necked, string instrument) after Brady fell in love with its unique timbre that echoes a filmic quality to that of Jean Constantin's *400 Blows* score to depict a sense of yearning.

Attracted by the sensibilities of old French film scores, especially those by Michel Legrand and Jean Constantin, and the sheer simplistic beauty of forbearing composers Debussy, Satie and Ravel, Brady cites inspiration in a warm earnestness to the melodies; and the complete, unmediated feeling that such scores and orchestrations create. Written and produced in his bedroom dorm at Harvard, in Cambridge Massachusetts, Brady recorded organic instruments (violin, bouzouki) before routing them through a compact modular synth setup acting as a sound chamber for further manipulation (loops, effects, textures). In striving to make sense of the ordinary, on ***Day-blind***, Brady's works are invariably imbued with a sense of serenity and tension. As he explains:

"There's a way in which everyday life can be a source of deep pain and melancholy, intensely disquieting and dull and leaden, and yet it can also be a place of deep peace and conscious attunement to the present moment, and it's this tension that the album is built around."



(Photo : © Sachiko Kirby)

The woozy opener '**Womb**' accesses deep and personal emotional spaces with its textural synth swells alternating between two simple chords, a gentle piano interlude and grainy textures that induce a day-dream state. The intentional unhurried-pace of the track '**Ordinary**' drifts between two centers of doleful Wurlitzer chords, hand in hand with the listener who might only register the tonal shifts on a subconscious level.

'**Attune**' enters with slowed-down synths and bouzouki, looped over itself, delayed, and then resynthesized to create a strange but seamless blend of acoustic and electronic as Brady moves the centre of gravity. This deliberate intervention takes the ordinary instruments and defamiliarizes them, making their origin not readily apparent therefore removing any blanket of association.

Day-blind too explores themes of memory, nostalgia, and melancholia which emanate from its lo-fi, intimate and sensitive nature. Through a hazy smokescreen of delays, tape loops and decays Brady contemplates a typical post modern-era dilemma of wistful longing and lonesome nostalgia, existing parallel/alongside contentment and staying in the present moment. The bare, reflective '**Streetlight**' with its pitched-shifted and vari-speed piano, spliced with a weeping violin melody performed by Kalman Strauss, precedes the re-constructive '**Untitled**' with a heavily filtered looping piano and rhythmic pulse. '**Ambrosial**' dims the spotlight to a close, being the most textural-laden track, combining loose sonic materials similar to Eno's Ambient 4 collage techniques.

By channelling his own acute musical sensibilities by means of evocative voicings, Brady momentarily deconstructs, warps and reshapes reality, posing questions about perception and our states of being, as the album's curious title mysteriously suggests.

Across its seven vignettes, **Day-blind** is life animated as Brady makes possible an everyday encounter with the transcendent.

Mixed and Mastered by Joe Talia (Oren Ambarchi / Jim O'Rourke, Arnold Dreyblatt)

About Tonal Union:

Tonal Union is a London based independent record label imprint run by Adam Heron. Formed in 2022 as an outlet for genre-blurring works and with an ethos to seek out unique forms of sound expression. The inaugural releases were highly praised by Pitchfork and The Guardian establishing the label as one of the finest to emerge from the field of experimental music. 2024 and beyond will see new and continued collaborations furthering its creative output with a distinct focus on pairing sound and visual forms.

Socials

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Release Information:

Gabriel Brady

Day-Blind

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1. Womb
2. Ordinary
3. Land and Sea
4. Attune
5. Streetlight
6. Untitled
7. Ambrosial