

Placeless (2013)

by Imani Uzuri

Placeless

"My place is placeless, a trace of the traceless, neither body or soul, I belong to the Beloved " ~Rumi

Placeless is a contemplative musical proposal that explores the expansive themes of home and "place" inspired by the Psalms, the writings of Sufi mystic and poet Rumi and the folk hymnody African-American Spirituals. It is an ode to the journey we all travel in various ways throughout our living moments towards transcendence.

1. Evenly Yoked

"Evenly Yoked" is a meditation on a provocative mixture of emotions such as hope, uncertainty and desire.

2. Hush Arbor

Hush Arbors were secret "safe" spaces created by enslaved African Americans in wooded areas throughout the southern United States as a place to worship, commune and strategize rebellion. Within the composition I employ the use of African American southern vocal practices and strategies such as melisma, guttural sounds and moans, underlaid with throat singing, overtone singing, tibetan mantras, tambourine sounds, original melodic motifs, elements of the Negro Spiritual "Steal Away", whispers of original text, strangled screams and drone sounds to evoke a place of memory, invocation, testimony and catharsis.

3. Shall Guide Me

is based on Psalm 139: 9-10

"If i take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost part of the sea, even there Thy right hand shall guide me."

4. My Place Is Placeless

speaks to the universal space we all hold.

featuring a line from Sufi mystic and poet

Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi (30 September 1207 – 17 December 1273)

poem "Only Breath" (translated by Coleman Barks).

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~Imani Uzuri March, 2013