

Music For Lighthouses

Dave
Clarkson



Early fires built on hilltops.....an entrance marker to ports. Beacons illuminated via wood and coal. Illumination with smokeless flame.....

Leasowe lighthouse (located on the North Wirral foreshore, NW England) is the oldest brick built lighthouse in Britain. It stands one hundred and one feet tall and was used to guide ships into the entrance to the rock channel and the port of Liverpool. According to local tradition its foundations were built on bales of cotton from a nearby shipwreck. The lighthouse was operational until 1908 with the only known female lighthouse keeper at the time. The lighthouse keepers' duties included trimming the wick of the oil lamp,

polishing the lenses and winding up the revolving mechanisms every hour or two to keep the light turning.

Music for Lighthouses is inspired by childhood memories. Many hours spent exploring the surrounding land and coast in the shadow of Leasowe lighthouse. In the winter an area of bleak barrenness with very little human activity. As the seasons change, visiting campers and caravans become common.



1 The Whistling Sands

Location recordings carrying the spirit of two ghost stories:

"Oh, Whistle, And I'll Come To You, My Lad" by M R James is a story concerning an academic who happens upon a strange whistle while exploring the Norfolk coast. When blown, the whistle unleashes a terrorising response.

Meanwhile in North Wales, the Talacre lighthouse and the presence of a ghostly lighthouse keeper walking around a tower once housing a light to warn passing ships travelling across Liverpool Bay from Llandudno.

Instrumentation: guitar, voice, location recording (Leasowe coast)

2 Hilbre Island: 53.3754° N,
3.2175° W

Hilbre Island - a beautiful nature reserve within the estuary of the River Dee, between England and Wales, and within view of Leasowe lighthouse. It is the largest of a group of three islands. The other two islands are called Middle Eye and Little Eye, All three islands are formed of red sandstone. The most southerly building on the island is the Hilbre Bird Observatory.

Instrumentation: Bass, Bloom app, chimes, shells, percussion, location recording (Wirral coast)

3 Lantern to Black Sea
Crashing waves and the beacon of light

through the darkness...the Northern Lights.

Instrumentation: Drum kit, percussion, iVCS3, location recording (Leasowe coast).

4 Longing and Loneliness

Changing watch... cleaning, painting and attending to the signal...climbing the stairs..... drawing the blinds, trimming the wicks, replenishing fuel...climbing the stairs.....winding clockworks , cleaning lenses, windows.... climbing the stairs. Light on a lonely rock.

Instrumentation: Guitars, pedals, voice, glockenspiel, location recording (Leasowe coast and footsteps)



Process:

Location sounds recorded in 1983 (Philips cassette recorder) and 2013/14 (Zoom H2n and Rode NTI-A). Music composed, tracks assembled and album mastered in Winter (2013/ 2014) and Summer (2014). Assemblage: Audiomulch 2.2.4, Wavelab LE7, Audacity and Sound Forge. All work by Dave Clarkson.

It is recommended that the album is listened through headphones in the dark.



About the artist:

Over the last 30 years, Dave Clarkson has been involved in many areas of music, mainly experimental. During the 80s, Clarkson recorded solo experimental/ electronic music on cassettes under the name Central Processing Unit as well as playing drums in rock bands.

In the year 2000, he formed the solo project Illuminati and has so far recorded 5 CDs, numerous vinyl appearances and been featured on BBC radio and in film festivals. Illuminati also provided incidental music to the film of the media art installation 'Human Avatars' (Andrea Zapp 2006) together with Vini Reilly

(Durutti Column). Clarkson also co-founded the Lotta Continua label (2004-2010), Burst Couch experimental club night and co-formed experimental electronic trio Triclops (2001-2012) releasing 3 CDs.

Clarkson has shared events with such artists as Keith Rowe, Janek Schaefer, Colin Potter, Andrew Liles, Biting Tongues, Crispy Ambulance and Melt Banana. He is currently putting together new solo material and has recently been involved in remix projects, putting a Bandcamp page together called Cavendish House and recording three albums due for release in collaboration under the name Psychic Frequencies.

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www.linearobsessional.com

<https://cavendishhouse.bandcamp.com/>

