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[CD Review](#)

Scott Fields & Jeffrey Lependorf "Everything Is In The Instructions' (Ayer Records, 2013)

Recording: October 20, 2012

This review is late, or if you like too soon. Because this is music for an autumn evening in November, when a storm is howling around the house and you relax, comfortably home on your couch. For this duo—guitarist Scott Fields and shakuhachi player Jeffrey Lependorf—presents a number of subtle, dramatic compositions with beautiful poetic titles. Now, the acoustic guitar and the shakuhachi (Japanese flute) are instruments with a limited range and ditto dynamics, so expect no extravagant excesses. This is a music rather of nuanced emotional expressiveness. Equally Well: with these musicians/composers it can all be trusted. In "Terror Babies" Lependorf uses the sounds of the shakuhachi optimally. He tells his story with smooth, lithe movements, supported by Fields' powerful attacks. In "Oh Yes," Fields begins with poetic sounding guitar and the shakuhachi is deployed with great intensity and transparency. The rhythm of the guitar here suggests something like a blues, with the shakuhachi singing its sad melody. But it's mostly "The Politics Of Solitude" that makes it clear that here we have masters of silence at work. The somber sound of the shakuhachi cuts deep here, while sparse, clean guitar leads add the necessary color to keep the whole lively. This is achieved with a minimum number of notes used to maximum effect. The album reaches a climax with the only cover on the album: "Naima," by John Coltrane. It is truly one of the most remarkable performances of this classic. But it's Lependorf especially who creates the atmosphere of this lovely subdued song to musical expression. Let the fall begin!

Translated from Dutch