



Poem Project
Barra Brown

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Artist: Barra Brown

Release date: April 7th, 2017

Record Label: Cavity Search Records

File under: folk, singer-songwriter, indie

Poem (alt. version): (feat. Barra Brown Quintet)

Poem no. 1: Diluvian (feat. Julia Lucille)

Poem no. 2: Go Forth (feat. Tim Howe)

Poem no. 3: Life in Boxes (feat. Patti King)

Poem no. 4: Fewer Promises (feat. Dwight Smith)

Poem no. 5: Cycle of No Dreams (feat. Colin Jenkins & Illslur)

Poem no. 6: So Close (feat. twig twig)

Poem no. 7: Goodbye Good (feat. Catherine Feeny & Chris Johnedis)

Poem no. 8: The Thread (feat. Gregory Uhlmann)

Poem Project captures the beauty of interpretation through the unique story each musician is moved to tell when interpreting the same song. The project started with an unexpected performance of Brown's instrumental song *Poem* by guitarist Adam Brock (Old Wave) and Brown's realization that his initial vision for the mood and sound of the song was not the only one. This curiosity of how other musicians might interpret, arrange, and build on one song, sparked the idea for *Poem Project*. The original piece was derived from Claude Debussy's *Girl with the Flaxen Hair* and appeared twice on Brown's album *Songs for A Young Heart* (PJCE Records): in its original form, and Brock's interpretation. Brown then asked eight different musicians from around the country to write lyrics to and arrange their own version of the song *Poem*. Brown's collaborative project spanned several years between Winter 2014 and Spring 2017 and includes members from Radiation City and The Shins (Patti King), Ages and Ages (Colin Jenkins), The Westerlies (Zubin Hensler), and musicians from L.A, New York City, Austin, and Brown's hometown of Portland, OR.

The parameters for *Poem Project* were as follows:

There artists were given recordings for the original Poem as well as sheet music

They were asked to write lyrics to the existing melody

The B section has chords but no melody, and the artists were free to compose a melody there.

How the A section and B section are ordered and how many times they are used were completely up to each artist

The artists were asked to record their versions so that each track has a unique sound

A truly eclectic musician, Barra Brown studied classical flute performance at Lewis & Clark College where he graduated with honors while studying drums through the prestigious Alan Jones Academy of Music (AJAM). Barra has toured the continental United States and Alaska playing drums with Alameda, Ages and Ages, Shook Twins, and Morning Ritual. Backed with an extensive training in classical music and arrangement, Brown brings experience and discipline, yet is constantly growing and searching for new ways to approach his craft. Fast ascending as a music staple in the Portland music scene, Barra has become one of the more exciting players and composers around. Bringing together different musical worlds, Brown is somewhat of a chemist, mixing unlikely influences to create something refreshingly unique. He has shared the stage with Robert Glasper, Kneebody, Ani DiFranco, Lake Street Dive, and Gregory Alan Isakov, and has performed at the Fillmore and Red Rocks Amphitheater. He has released albums as a leader with both Cavity Search Records and Portland Jazz Composer's Ensemble Records (PJCE).



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