

Review by Bart Plantenga (WFMU radio / NYC)

Curd Duca is an Austrian electronic sound bytologist. On 'Easy Listening', he explores and de- (and re)-composes beloved tunes that may have enchanted and haunted the most nostalgic record bins of our collective minds.

"I hear echoes of children's music, fairy tale recordings, Austrian operettas and folkmusik, classical orchestras, TV show soundtracks, marching bands, strange electric organs from old Czech cartoons - all sunken to the subconscious with a layer of modern culture on top."
he explains in a 1995 WFMU / NY radio interview I did with him.

Throughout his 'easy listening' series, he has dredged up poignant sentiments out of the grooves of scratchy Jazz, schmaltzy waltzes and ersatz exotica. Into all of this, he weaves found sounds (water, highway traffic, electronic birds) to stir up this SEDlment / (sentiment) and offer us new strategies for listening. His song titles are mere cagey hints of their abstracted sources: 'bird', 'tristano 8', 'monk', 'greco'.

There is a warped and wonderfully evocative quality to this music. His pieces are not parodies because there is too much fondness and sentimental value in them. *"I am mesmerized - sometimes in a drug-induced-like state of nerdy fascination, letting go of all inhibitions like good taste, good intentions, the hipness factor, and indulging in 'false' sentiments, with my mind wide awake."*