



Song Review: Ertan Iliyaz - Aria

Overall Impression

Composer and producer Ertan Iliyaz blends groove-oriented jazz-funk with sophisticated melodies and Afrobeat rhythms, on his release of "Aria". Syncopated organ meshes with a buoyant bass line while nimble percussion drives the beat on this exciting instrumental track, setting the stage for a flowing arrangement and a theme that features vibrant soprano vocalizations paired with bright brass, balanced by sinister electric guitar sections and far-off trumpet solos. Contemporary jazz and global fusion fans will fall in love with the infectious rhythms and international stylings of Ertan Iliyaz's "Aria", now available as a single on all major streaming services.

Strongest Point(s)

Excellent production, solid mix. Incredible composition and arrangement, outstanding song structure and instrumentation. Great element staging and along with an organic, natural-sounding flow. Killer syncopated groove that draws from both Afrobeat and Latin vocabularies. Fantastic contrast and variety between the A and B sections, they balance each other quite well. Terrific fanfare-like motif and main theme; a soaring, uplifting melody that sounds great paired with the trumpet, love the variation that starts at around 1:25. The guitar passages are well-executed; great tone and technique, serves as the perfect complementary element to the vocal/trumpet pairing. Love the little bit of laughter, adds a touch of fun and frivolity to an already irresistible tune. Overall, this is a brilliant composition and a highly entertaining track that should appeal to most modern jazz-fusion fans, particularly those with a taste for Afrobeat and an appetite for new sounds. Stellar work, from top to bottom!

Target Audience Appeal

Fans of Jazz, World, Contemporary Jazz, Jazz-Funk, Global Fusion

Artist target suggestions

Fela Kuti, Fema Kuti, Cymande, Youssou N'Dour, Malo, BadBadNotGood, Frank Zappa, The Menahan Street Band, Antibalas, The Budos Band, Ikebe Shakedown, NOMO, The Souljazz Orchestra, El Michels Affair, The Cosmic Range

About The Reviewer

Steven Azami is a multi-instrumentalist with over 25 years of experience in the music industry. Both as a touring/session player and as a producer, his career has spanned nearly every genre from bluegrass to jazz, from rock to reggae. In addition, his work as a music educator has allowed him to cultivate and foster talent among the next generation of musical explorers.