

“Into the West” – new album by Abhik Mazumder
for immediate release



Illustrious pianist, songwriter and composer Abhik Mazumder has just released his sophomore album, *Into the West*, after two years of self-directed and self-produced work on the project. Taking inspiration from the album’s namesake end credits song from *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, Abhik has crafted a 56-minute journey of fond remembrance, poignant lament, and bittersweet growth, exploring the joy of long-lost childhood and retrospecting on it through the lens of classic and contemporary fantasy stories. The artist notes that this album “is truly a synthesis of everything I’ve loved, been, and become over the past two years,” in which he grew in touch with his inner child again. *Into the West* “takes us on a journey similar to that of our favorite fantasy characters,” Abhik says, “but our journey is about remembering the simplicity of our childhood essence, feeling the powerful nostalgia and even loss that it evokes, and letting it paint our grown-up world anew.” The title not only alludes to the peaceful paradise of the Undying Lands from Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*, but also to the west-setting sun marking the end of a chapter of life and the beginning of a new one.

In the making of this highly ambitious project, Abhik worked with 43 different collaborators, from musicians to songwriters to sound engineers to visual artists. In addition to recording piano and composing most of the music himself, he also played violin, sang background vocals, wrote lyrics, and mixed and mastered audio for much of the album.

Into the West consists of ten original compositions of Abhik’s as well as four renditions of music written by others: a piano-guitar duet take on Roger Miller’s “Oo-De-Lally” from Disney’s *Robin Hood* (1973); a medieval-esque instrumental arrangement of the Beatles’ classic “Eleanor Rigby”; the slow movement of Fryderyk Chopin’s powerful 1844 Sonata in B minor; and the aforementioned title track, “Into the West,” written by Fran Walsh, Howard Shore, and Annie Lennox in farewell to the *Lord of the Rings* films. For his original work, Abhik was inspired by a variety of artists such as Howard Shore, Madison Cunningham, MARO, dodie, Rob Lane, Lizzy Hilliard (who features on the album), and Eric Whitacre, among others. Alongside warm jazz-tinged folk tracks such as “Willow Tree,” “Icarus,” and “Passing,” Abhik also paid very direct tribute to his idol Howard Shore with the brass and string dectet “Theme for Beregond” and to the ethereal VOCES8 with the vocal octet “Threads.” His large-ensemble configuration of “The Little Teal House” is heavily inspired by the music of Michel Hazanavicius’ Oscar-winning film *The Artist* (2011), while “The Magic Clockwork” is an homage to magic-themed TV series *Merlin* and *Once Upon a Time*, both of which were linchpins of his early teenage world.



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