

Function Ensemble — critical praise

"This kind of reverent, expansive, magical realist folk music owes an obvious debt to Sufjan Stevens, but Galeria de la Luz succeeds where Stevens' The Age of Adz failed, its massed orchestral ranks marshaled with stunning composure and restraint." — Uncut, UK

"Angelic textures, dreamy pop songs, aerial drones, sumptuous arrangements and improvisations felt to mix and magnify. Impressive and ambitious, it provides a deep sense of well being and soothing freedom. Galeria de la Luz is an album that is shared between families, between people with similar sensitivity. Masterpiece." — Rock It To The Moon, FR

"...it occurs to me that I could type for days and come nowhere within the proper realm of "beginnings" in conveying the white magic function delivers on album." — Slightly Confusing To a Stranger, USA

"The album is mystical and soothing. It offers an experience that is unapologetically contemplative and fully immersed in the realm of the ethereal. The album is not meant to exist in the world of philosophical reductionism or simplified physics. The Secret Miracle Fountain is an expression of free will, a foray into transcendentalism... with its woodsy, hinterland sounds, (the album) seems to borrow more from Emerson than from Indie rock." — Ampcamp, USA

"He's a lyricist of wry wit and rare intellectual cunning, a poet who disses his subjects with a hearty, Zen-flavored circumspection. I feel I should point this out, seeing that, if there's any record fit to draw its listener's attention as far away from the lyrics as possible, it's probably The Secret Miracle Fountain. Dig in. Get lost. (I mean that in the most polite way.) Lord only knows when Nicholson or anyone else will summon the wherewithal to complete another album this ambitious and absorbing." — Flagpole, UK

"Fans of The Books, Low, Animal Collective & Broken Social Scene need to hear this densely layered pop masterpiece" — Reckless, USA

"The Secret Miracle Fountain is a passively thoughtful yet aggressively experimental album, contradictory in that it's both feral and utterly modern in its presentation; the

power of nature digitized and the heart of humanity released from its societal mores, all in one album.” — Kyndmusic, USA

“...stretches the ethereality of dream pop into blissout, as strings, wordless vocals, and guitar bleed together in swatches of psychedelic color...Function argue convincingly that sometimes you have to leave the planning behind and go on instinct.” — Pitchfork, USA (Rating: 8.2)

“Despite its far flung origins and diverse input, Nicholson’s music retains a clear authorial voice and purpose offering a series of panoramic variations, phased drones, vaporous trails, and heavily processed cycles of ebb and flow...” — The Wire, UK

“Almost impossibly beautiful. At 72 minutes long, and incorporating pristine folk, field recordings, pop melodies, jazz-like bursts of dissonance and sampled world music intervals, The Secret Miracle Fountain is immediately arresting” — Dusted, USA

The Secret Miracle Fountain is an experimental rock album that glitters to its depths like a musical coral – a broad and startlingly mature representation of world musicianship with not so much as an instrumental ego in sight.” — Tangents, UK

“The Secret Miracle Fountain is without a doubt one of the finest releases in Locust’s catalogue and is destined to appear in many a top 10 at the end of the year!” — Boomkat, UK

“...want to know what’s bigger than the band and more indefinable than their lineup? Their music! You’ll have a hard time turning away, because their music is utterly beautiful. It’s quite enchanting.” — Mundanesounds, USA

“The Secret Miracle Fountain” a breath-taking and epic album, which stretches and glides through a cornucopia of musical styles with consummate ease. A walk through an audio rainforest and beyond.” — Terrascope, UK

“The Secret Miracle Fountain is a release unlike any other that will stun, astound and yes, possibly even bring you some much needed peace in your life, giving a complete air of truth to the album’s title.” — Treblezine, USA

“sweeping, skyward epics, worthy of Olympic closing ceremonies or peyote snacks by the “fire spot” in the woods” — Prefix, US

“the raw thrashing of rustic instrumentation treads alongside mercurial, abstract electronics, forging a sublime juxtaposition.” — Nuemu, USA

“...fits perfectly with the newest heroes on the edge of the singer/songwriter territory.” — Psychedelic Folk, Belgium

“One of this year’s most intriguing releases ... an ambition to make something entirely new out of a very tired form” — The Deep End, ABC, AUS

“Right in my sound world! really nice stuff...” — Janek Schaefer, Sound Artist, Curator & Composer, UK

“A stunning masterwork of intriguing musical delights” — Mono.net, AUS/NZ

‘...the first time I heard “The Zillionaire-Retarded Speeds of Ordinary, Measured Light” – it opened up my head! (I was) glued to speakers in intense concentrated listening! ... beautiful, beautiful” – Mr. Ongawa, director, Wonderground Music, JAPAN

‘At times, Function lean towards the beautiful sweep of David Sylvian or Felt, with shimmering sounds and lush atmospheres with a dark edge. But you can hear a country thread, too. Listen to this album if you're not in a hurry to be anywhere, physically or emotionally. It will slow down the passing world and maybe even alter the way you see the light coming in the window. If pain persists, put it on again’ - The Sydney Morning Herald, AUS

“I play the Function disc all the time and absolutely love it... makes me feel better about people and the world in general” — Roger Shepherd, Founder, Flying Nun Records NZ/UK

“an eclectic mix of pop, disposition, atmosphere, and instrumental packed integrity that has moments of brilliance. this isn’t any ordinary record” — Australian Music Online, AUS

“this is magical music, hot shit, serious, suffocating and sparse, and aesthetically exquisite... from the outset you notice the lyrical quality is outstanding. The finest album to emerge from Australia this year. You have been warned.” — Adequacy.net, USA

‘...have listened to the whole (78 minute) album four times today. I LOVE it and cannot get enough...’ — Jeff Atmajian, Hollywood Cinematic Orchestrator, USA

“The much lauded Australian sound experimenter Matt Nicholson straddles minimalism, field recording and indie rock; electronics meet the harmonium, harp and Indian Bansuri flute. Clearly an exactingly crafted big production.” — Apex, UK

"Matt Nicholson can already be justifiably labelled as one of alternative music's answers to Western art's more consummate assimilators of the East. With his continent-hopping consideration and ability to evolve like a global chameleon, he can also be termed a musical hero of rarely realised proportions. The Secret Miracle Fountain is an experimental rock album that glitters to its depths like a musical coral - a broad and startlingly mature representation of world musicianship with not so much as an instrumental ego in sight. — [Tangents, UK](#)

"The record is reigned in by his overwhelming compositional talents and production styles. Musically, 'The Secret Miracle Fountain' is as varied and as intriguing as where it was recorded - ranging from Wrens-esque classic indie rock to gorgeous textured ambience, recalling acts such as Fennesz or Deaf Center with processed guitar and detailed field recordings. The mixture of styles is a huge bonus here - with each track playing off the last perfectly, as one more poppish song draws to a close, the gates are opened for ambience and experimentalism to creep in and get it's claws into your skin. The Secret Miracle Fountain is without a doubt one of the finest releases in Locust's catalogue and is destined to appear in many a top 10 at the end of the year!" — [Boomkat, UK](#)

"A rippling and tempestuous collection. I've listened to it time and time again and have been enraptured by its organic flow and subversive sounds but it is so mercurial, so permutable that I can't seem to pin it down.... The Secret Miracle Fountain is a passively thoughtful yet aggressively experimental album, contradictory in that it's both feral and utterly modern in its presentation; the power of nature digitized and the heart of humanity released from its societal mores, all in one album." — [Kyndmusic, USA](#)