



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LOS ANGELES, June 20, 2023 — Composer and pianist Joseph Seif has released his second full-length LP of original piano compositions, titled ***Works for Solo Piano, Vol. 2***. The new album will be streaming on Spotify, Tidal, Amazon Music, Google Play, and most available services starting June 23rd. It is also available for purchase as an immediate **digital download** and as a limited vinyl pressing with an estimated shipping date of May 14, 2024.

Seif's compositions blend the classical hallmarks of the Late Romantic era with more modern cues from composers such as Nils Frahm, Max Richter, and Yann Tiersen. His playing is demanding, intricate, and deeply influenced by the likes of Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Mahler, and Prokofiev. His sound can be described as atmospheric and highly textured — an attempt to create new tonal tapestries that interweave a soaring, ornate, romantic sensibility with a modern, cinematic haze. “My intent is to combine the emotive nature and technical intricacies of Late Romantic classical music with tactile, atmospheric styling that is both painterly and organic in feel,” says Seif. “Though many of my influences are modern, I am not a minimalist in my approach. I compose from my heart, at the very edge of my technical ability, and with a sense of great urgency.”

With *Works for Solo Piano, Vol. 2*, Seif once again returns to his first love, the piano. A three-year process, work on this collection of piano compositions began during the pandemic and was completed in June, 2023. It begins with the cinematic “Antarctic Theme” which was composed while Seif was on a photography assignment for National Geographic Expeditions in Antarctica. It quickly dives into his sprawling *third sonata*, a technically complex and melodic feat that is teeming with Late Romantic bravado. His *Reverie* acts as a bittersweet, nostalgic bridge between his third sonata and the three



Photo by Philip Cheung

brooding and ethereal Flamenco-inspired pieces that follow: *Andalucia of the Mind*, *The Citadel* and *La Soledad*. He then proceeds to reinterpret Astor Piazzolla's *Oblivion*, a modern tango masterpiece originally written by the Argentinean maestro for the bandoneón and accompanying string section. Seif's arrangement for the piano attempts to combine the orchestral layering of the original and the haunting melody that was originally played on the bandoneón in a singular instrument, while maintaining the feel and soulful nature of the original. Finally, the album concludes with a remix of *Antarctic Theme*, with adds an effected cello melody and synthesizer layers for a wide and lush finale reminiscent of a Hans Zimmer film score.

ABOUT JOSEPH SEIF

Raised in multiple countries and now firmly rooted in California, Seif was a classically trained pianist prior to shifting into the visual arts to become an accomplished professional cinematographer and celebrity photographer (josephseif.com). As a visual artist, he has lensed campaigns for Levi's, Mercedes-Benz, Visa, Airbnb, and many others, and his images have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, and *Forbes* — having photographed the likes of Sir Richard Branson, Sean Penn, Sting, Metallica, and many other high-profile subjects.

In the summer of 2019, while experiencing a creative burnout, Seif drove up the California coast intending to do some landscape photography, when he began to hear the first sonata in his head. He describes it as such: “The landscape seemed to howl and twist, and memories of childhood, distant lands, and people lost all hummed in unison. The cameras never came out of their bag. I came home and started writing the score. I worked late into the night, for weeks. When it was finished, I immediately booked a studio and an engineer, and recorded it in a matter of days.” His second sonata and four standalone pieces quickly followed, and his first full-length LP, *Works for Solo Piano. Vol. 1*, was released in January 2020. Its follow-up, *Works for Solo Piano Vol. 2*, was completed and released in June 2023. He lives and works in Los Angeles and San Francisco, where he splits his time between film and photography sets and his piano. He plans to perform the original compositions in select cities in 2024.

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Album photography by Philip Cheung.