

~~YOU FALL DOWN,~~  
~~YOU FEEL THE~~  
~~GROUND BENEATH~~  
~~— YOU AND YOU FEEL~~  
~~COMFORTABLE AS IF~~  
~~— YOU WERE~~  
~~STANDING.~~  
~~YOU START MOVING,~~  
~~— SENSING THE~~  
~~GROUND~~  
~~AS IF — IT WERE THE~~  
~~— AIR THAT USUALLY~~  
~~SURROUNDS — YOU~~



American [Derek Piotr](#) is a new name to me – he may have started out some nine years ago operating in a vaguely glitch / electronica area, but since 2019 has researched and studied the folk music of his homeland, in particular Appalachian folk, and is now regarded as a composer and archivist. His *Divine Supplication* (DPSR 005) is all over the arena, and in a good way; surprising sounds and combinations, unexpected phrases (both lyrical and musical) packed into short, compressed packages, tricky rhythms wrong-footing the ear with both hands. Collaborators have swarmed to him, including A-list players such as Fennesz and Maja S.K. Ratkje, and the whole album is a dizzying array of beats, pulsations, squiggles, and layered, treated vocals, many of them refusing to stay on point or in the right key, which is great. No genre or time period is off the table – a motet and a hymn from the 13th century lurk among the very modern raps and programming. Tho' lyrics are hard to make out, you can still tell it's a very personal set for this fellow, but if I hadn't read the press notes I'd never have guessed it came from a background of recent personal tragedies. I was expecting more introspection and self-examination, but as it turns out, there's just the right amount. Wayward beauty is buried within these grooves, but it also lies on the surface too. A gilded trellis conceals a platinum heart. (15/05/24)