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From the moment you hold Constance Hauman's album "High Tides" you are impressed. Neither cost nor effort seems to have been spared. The red hardcover digibook embossed with white wave-like forms resembles an actual book featuring 40 pages (!!!) and includes a table of contents and an index which refer to each of the songs contained in this beautifully bound package. One's curiosity is aroused just by looking at and browsing through this coffee table art book and one is inclined to buy this beautifully designed work without knowing anymore about it, for it's obvious that good music must hide within. And yes, it really is hiding there...the type of songs that would please Kate Bush!

But who is Constance Hauman, this person who dedicates her album to "love, the past, the present and the future" and provides every song with a quotation from Friedrich Nietzsche to Albert Camus, Yoko Ono to Arthur Miller and even Paul Tillich?

Constance Hauman is a classical opera singer, but also a pianist, an actress, a composer and a producer. A true multi-dimensional talent whose career began in the major international concert halls, theatres, cinemas and opera houses, though not on pop or rock stages.

Here she turns her talents to creating demanding pop music with high-quality lyrics, which she compliments not only with accompaniment on the piano but also with the inclusion of numerous electronic elements.

A melancholy mood often prevails yet there is a similarity here between this music and another of her projects; the highly acclaimed band and funk rock sensation, Miss Velvet & The Blue Wolf. And if this is not enough to prove her versatility, she will soon perform the role of Queen Elizabeth I with the Vienna State Opera. And speaking of opera, her beautiful rendition of the aria "Les Chemins de l'Amour" – which is arranged within an electro-pop framework – will inspire devout admiration in the listener.

Her 2015 debut album "Falling Into Now" which was voted one of the 10 best pop albums of the year by the English newspaper, The Guardian, presented a fusion of pop, opera and funk. Hauman continues exactly in this manner on "High Tides", with strong resonances of inner thoughts and melancholic feelings. The texts of the songs express a relationship between her

turbulent inner experiences of personal and emotional loss and the violent intractable vicissitudes of the natural world.

Further light is shed on these themes by way of revealing philosophical quotes in the booklet, such as Francois De La Rochefoucauld: "True love is like a ghost that everyone talks about, but few have seen."

On "High Tides" one finds truly sad songs such as, "Waiting For You", classic pop hymns like "Run Sister" and "Mystic Vision" and tender love ballads, "Lonely Xmas" and "Painful Strangers". As previously mentioned, there is also "Les Chemins de l'Amour", a work by the French composer, Francis Poulenc, and a cover of the ballad "Everlong" by Dave Grohl of the Foo Fighters.

Without doubt "High Tides" is another album by Constance Hauman for which the Guardian should already have reserved a place as one of the ten best pop albums of the year.

Conclusion: With "High Tides" the multi-talented Constance Hauman offers a magnificently designed and impressive sounding musical spectacle. One in which she deliberately does not conceal her operatic training and successfully combines classical technique with pop singing. Additionally, the melancholic mood as well as the thought-provoking lyrics makes for a truly impressive work of art consisting of popular and classically inspired music that floods the listeners consciousness.