REVIEW · SOUL

Good Thing | Toshiki Soejima & Carrie Baxter feat. edbl

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The Japanese have a beautiful word: *komorebi*, sunlight filtering through leaves. After listening to “Good Thing”, you almost wonder why we never invented an equally precise word.

It is the image behind Toshiki Soejima’s album.

And it works particularly well here too.

Soejima’s neo-soul guitar meets Carrie Baxter’s voice and edbl’s production in a space where jazz, soul, R&B and beat music no longer seem interested in introducing themselves separately.

The guitar leaves small, clean, liquid touches. The voice has a honey-coloured warmth. The production keeps enough air between the elements for each one to exist without pushing the others away.

It’s a **soft precision**.

Everything is carefully crafted, but nothing feels rigid.

Like light through leaves: it doesn’t illuminate everything at the same time, and precisely for that reason it reveals details that a harsher light would wipe out.

It’s a good metaphor for the best neo-soul, too.

The complexity is there.

But it doesn’t need to shout about it.

> ***“Good Thing” closes the circle perfectly: jazz, neo-soul and R&B walk into the same room, dim the lights, finally stop explaining who they are and simply start talking.***

LISTEN

Good Thing — Toshiki Soejima & Carrie Baxter feat. edbl — is in our playlist Soul Jazz & Velvet Grooves.

Toshiki Soejima & Carrie Baxter feat. edbl. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.

LISTEN FIRST. SELECT SECOND.