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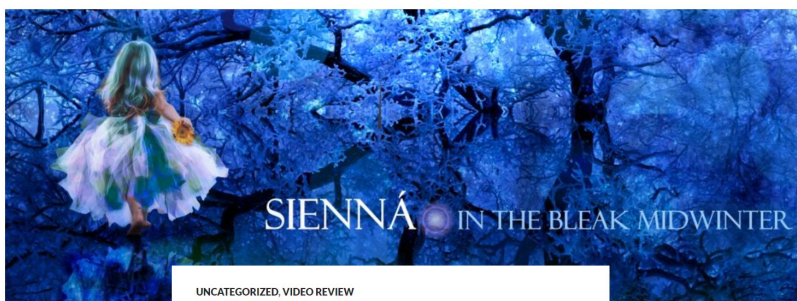
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- December 2021
- November 2021
- October 2021
- September 2021
- August 2021
- July 2021
- June 2021
- May 2021
- April 2021
- March 2021
- February 2021
- January 2021
- December 2020
- November 2020
- October 2020
- September 2020
- August 2020
- July 2020
- June 2020
- May 2020
- April 2020
- March 2020
- February 2020
- January 2020
- December 2019
- November 2019
- September 2019
- August 2019
- July 2019
- June 2019
- May 2019
- March 2019
- February 2019
- January 2019
- November 2018
- September 2018
- July 2018
- June 2018
- April 2018
- March 2018
- February 2018
- December 2017
- November 2017
- October 2017
- September 2017
- August 2017
- July 2017
- June 2017
- May 2017
- April 2017
- March 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- December 2016
- October 2016
- June 2016
- May 2016
- February 2016
- January 2016
- October 2015
- July 2015
- December 2014



UNCATEGORIZED, VIDEO REVIEW

SIENNÁ'S LOVELY, EVOCATIVE 'IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER'

DECEMBER 8, 2021 ADMIN LEAVE A COMMENT

By Keith Walsh

Winter is coming – in less than two weeks. And there are things about winter that evoke melancholy – the sometimes darkness of the sky, the cold, the quiet. As so it is with [Sienná's](#) holiday surprise, a version of "In The Bleak Midwinter." There's a sense of spookiness to this tune, a version of an 1906 popular song with lyrics from Christina Rossetti, adapted from a melody by Gustav Holst.

Raised in Japan but located in Norway, [Sienná](#) is known for her experimental nu jazz and electronica, but for this tune she showcases some traditional jazz chops in instrumentation and vocals, as well as her production skills to create a mellow, downbeat – and decidedly lovely – soundtrack for the season.



I asked Sienná about her experiences with this holiday song.

Synthbeat: How did you encounter this classic tune?

Sienná: "I performed the piano for fun with a one-night-stand band at a Christmas party 5 years ago or so. Since then it has been my favorite humming song all year round. Later I came to know that the music was composed by Gustav Holst and had a big 'aha' moment. I don't know how many times I spinned *The Planets* during my childhood."

Synthbeat: What instrument, or what tools did you use to create the jazz arrangement?

Sienná: "I played mostly the MIDI keyboard connecting to the Logic Pro X plugins (Alchemy and EXS24) except bass, drums and vocals."

Synthbeat: Same DAW as before? How about the haunting piano sound and orchestral?

Sienná: "Yes, the same devices. I feel that I have a good fundamental setup, so I'm constantly learning in depth by using it. Piano and orchestral came from [EXS24](#)."

Synthbeat: The big build at 2:30 is brilliant.. what drums did you use? **Sienná:** "That was the result from editing, bouncing, cutting and compounding details on Logic Pro X Drummer. I thought it was 't a very simple edit, though..."

Synthbeat: Any news about an album in the works?

Sienná: "Yes I have several new tracks, but not entirely and completely happy with them, yet. So I must wait, take distance and see what I think about them later. In a meanwhile I may start new music too. No rush, no regret :)"

- [Sienna-web.com](#)
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EUROPEAN ELECTRONIC MUSIC

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