

For Your Consideration – Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album



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## Out There, Right Here

Shirley Cason

2025 / Shirley Cason Music

29 minutes

### Review by New Music Alert (India)

*“New Music Alert placed Shirley Cason’s work in the same modern classical/ambient lineage as **Nils Frahm** and **Max Richter** — two of the most influential composers in the genre today. — Cason’s skilled composition welds intimate solo piano notes with ambient electronic textures to create uniquely refreshing music of expansive cinematic quality... I strongly recommend this album to music lovers who seek a composition that is quietly profound and emotionally generous. ” — (Team NMA, India) — NewMusicAlert.in*

### Out There, Right Here: A Journey Through Space, Sound, and the Heart

The very first notes of the album whispered to me that the songs in this collection are meant to carve a rare and resonant space in contemporary music. Not guided by a genre label or formula, Shirley Cason’s six-track instrumental journey shines through its own poetic logic. Cason’s skilled composition welds intimate solo piano notes with ambient electronic textures to create uniquely refreshing music of expansive cinematic quality. The entire experience feels cosmic and otherworldly.

The music resonates emotionally and intellectually by asking listeners, “Why do we relentlessly search ‘out there’ in space when the true treasures might already be ‘right here’ on Earth?” This approach embraces a universal concept to facilitate deeply personal reflection. When the mind grows restless and fatigued amidst the bustling noises of city life, these songs pull consciousness toward distant horizons where we feel fully healed and rejuvenated. The paradox in the title arrests us and sets the tone for the surprise that lies ahead. All in all, the conversation between longing and belonging, between cosmic expansiveness and the tether of home, makes Cason’s songs profoundly magical.

### Artist Background & Inspirations

A significant part of Shirley Cason’s music career has been dedicated to exploring the intersection of classical piano and immersive sound design. Through her independent film shorts and ambient installations, she has built a quiet reputation among composers. Her earlier works in similar lines explored the weaving of contemplative piano with evocative atmospheres. Thus, we see her as belonging to the modern composer-producer archetype. A self-producing artist, her approach is multidisciplinary and committed to excellence in both performance and studio craft.

The inspiration behind **Out There, Right Here** is both literal and philosophical. The rich cosmic imagery in the album's making—including voyages, stars, and the heart of the cosmos—is not merely decorative, but builds on a trend that resonates with space-ambient pioneers and contemporary ambient composers like Nils Frahm or Max Richter. Notably, artists of this class are known to ground electronic or orchestral expansiveness in fragile human feeling. Shirley's own reflection, "The further the music travelled into space, the more I felt drawn to what we might be leaving behind..." underlines the tension between exploration and homecoming. We learn that she drew not only from ambient tradition, but also from a deeply emotional mindset. The album demonstrates how sound can become a vessel for ethical and sentimental reflection.

### **Genre, Instruments & Composition**

Out There, Right Here stands at the crossroads of ambient and contemporary classical. An instrumental album, it embraces diverse elements including ambient electronics, cinematic textures, spacious keyboards, and cosmic atmospheres. Throughout this innovative experiment in ambient and neo-classical hybridism, the artist remains committed to maintaining the emotional clarity and melodic warmth of the piano. While the core of the instrumentation centres on Cason's piano, the creative process is beautifully enhanced by washes of pads, ethereal drones, long-sustaining synths, and subtle electronic effects. Shifting between sweeping and immersive soundscapes, the composition follows a thoughtful arc that carries us on an outward cosmic journey, finally concluding with a homeward return.

### **A Journey Through the Tracks**

#### **Voyage to the Heart – 2:56**

The first track is a softly glistening opening. The gentle piano motif, set against a soft electronic glow, feels like a spacecraft lifting off from emotional soil. Short yet poised, the piece is warmly inviting.

#### **Lift Off to the Unknown – 2:38**

The pulse turns more dramatic in the second track, sounding hopeful and echoing anticipation. The listener is propelled toward distant horizons on an expansive outbound voyage.

#### **Between Stars and Earth – 8:12**

This lengthy track feels spacious and suspends time. The gentle dialogues between piano melodies and slowly evolving drones create the perfect platform for reflection. The cosmic distance travelled contrasts with the earth-bound longing, making this piece the emotional centrepiece of the collection.

#### **Heart of the Cosmos – 8:18**

At the heart of the cosmos, the voyage turns immersive and exploratory. Deep piano notes evoke wonder and introspection, bridging the space between vulnerability and vastness.

#### **Cosmic Breath – 2:32**

This piece feels like a brief exhilaration, resembling an ambient deep-breathing exercise. While electronic textures sigh, the piano notes whisper a cosmic mantra into our ears. With pauses between expanses, it becomes an intimate piece that promotes deep reflection.

#### **Homeward Bound – 4:44**

The concluding piece sets consciousness on an inward journey of homecoming. Warm and dense piano melodies reflect on the transformation brought about through the voyage. The uplifting notes gently remind us that "home" is the meaningful destination.

## Take Away

The entire album follows a thoughtful pattern, balancing narration with restraint. The journey winds through opening invitation, outward exploration, cosmic immersion, release, and final return. What I loved most about *Out There, Right Here* is how it combines cosmic wonder with tender, intimate sensibilities rooted in one's own consciousness. Listening felt like drifting in open space while feeling the pull of home all along. In this way, the journey embodies both escape and reclamation. Any listener is bound to discover a rare kind of solace in the album. In this musical work, Shirley Cason has created a nurturing space that facilitates exploration and introspection. I strongly recommend this album to music lovers who seek a composition that is quietly profound and emotionally generous.

New Music Alert (Team NMA, India) — “Album Review: *Out There, Right Here*” (Sept 7, 2025)