Detroit-native Jeremy Ellis (aka Ayro) moved to Puerto Rico to create an album marrying traditional Bomba and Plena rhythms with Detroit-schooled dance music. After three months, the keyboard maestro and golden-toned vocalist discovered that the living in Puerto Rico ain’t so easy. On his way home he lost two computers, all of his recordings, half of his recording advance, and his passport (and possibly part of his mind). Fortunately, Ellis returned in one piece with the musical knowledge and resolve to create “The Lotus Blooms,” an album of insatiable future funk grounded in Detroit and peppered with a Puerto-Rican persuasion.

From his retake on the traditional Puerto Rican song “Cortano A Elena” to the broken beat driven song “These Passing Days” the Puerto Rican influences vary in strength. Heavy Latin vibes can be found in “Bombakiss” and the montuno of the opening track “Take Your Time” (check also the harder remixed version which can be found as bonus cut #17). There is also plenty of room for more Detroit-styled outings. His near 10 minute epic “Callelunakarma” jumps from hip hop to broken to house to future jazz fusion and back to hip hop again (like a modern day “Chameleons”) while the track which gave birth to the album title “Lotus-blooms” blurs the line between boogie-tune, house and broken beat.

This is only the second album for Jeremy Ellis (his first for Ubiquity) and yet he has already appeared on albums, remixes, and tracks by Jazzanova, Roy Davis Jr., Carl Craig, John Beltran, John Arnold, Recloose and many more. Dropping down somewhere between Bugz In The Attic and Kerrier District, Jazzanova and Metro Area, Ellis balances jazz licks with Detroit bounce, future beats and classic soul.

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