MUSIC IN THE TIME OF CORONA

For an entire year, the music industry in Israel has come to a standstill. Venues were closed and concerts were cancelled. Some musicians performed in living rooms and backyards for small groups of people, and some had online gigs.

So it came as a surprise to many when in December a new joint album was launched by two prominent rock musicians, singers, songwriters—Berry Sakharof and Dudu Tassa. A Remnant of Light (b’dal shel or) was declared the best album of the year by several publications.

The instrumental number Karatas (named after the Jewish neighborhood in Izmir, Turkey, where Sakharof was born) embodies the intent of the pair’s collaboration—they are western musicians, but the eastern (Mizrachi) sounds are embedded in them. This merging of east and west, associated with Sakharof, has become the ultimate sound of contemporary Israeli Rock.

The album is named after a verse in The Last Moments of Light, with poignant lyrics by poet Eli Eliahu (see page 2). The song depicts desperate moments, and seeks answers to an apocalyptic situation. Listen here.

After a year that has brought us all to a standstill, we might want to hang on to the last remnant of light, and hope that it will shine fully very soon. This album might bring us a little bit closer to that day. Listen here.

See the Full playlist.
On that evening I walked alone
On a street whose name I will never remember
The wind banged on the roofs like a drunkard
These were the last moments of light

On that evening I met someone
Who wished to turn back time
I saw a girl who slipped away like a bird
These were the last moments of light

It’s already the end of the day, silent is the street
You have been asleep for a while
Above my head is a remnant of light
Where do we go from here

I saw a man who could not find his home
He just walked there back and forth
And a man who has already lost his mind
These were the last moments of light

Not far from there the fields burned in silence
And I trembled, but not from cold
Female poets wrote war songs
These were the last moments of light

It’s already the end of the day, silent is the street
You have been asleep for a while
Above my head is a remnant of light
Where do we go from here