Just outside

Saturday, February 01, 2014



Tomaž Grom - Sam, Za (l'Innomable/Sploh)

A solo recording from Grom, who's credited with both bass and voice, though I'm unable to differentiate the latter; I assume it might take the form of deep growls that merge with some of the low arco work here, which is quite impressive. I admit to being a total sucker for bowed bass from the depths and the first track here, "T.G.V.S." (all titles are initials) lands squarely in my comfort zone, so rich and robust, so dark and darkly melodious. Could have listened to that for a long time...Grom returns to that area, more or less, several times over the course of the nine tracks here and actually spends almost all of his time in what you might call the lower "half" of his instrument. He's an active player, rarely interested in silence or allowing notes to soak into the space, more likely to be nimbly scurrying about but never descending into mere flash. All of the tracks carry an air of serious investigation with, to me, a kind of post-efi feel. Each also maintains a focus on a limited number of attacks, generally a rewarding strategy. Mostly extended technique of one sort or another with occasional dips into standard bowing, always revolving around the agitatedly somber. Hard to describe further. Put it this way: it's the kind of recording you might have hoped, years back, to have heard from Barry Guy but this is much, much better.