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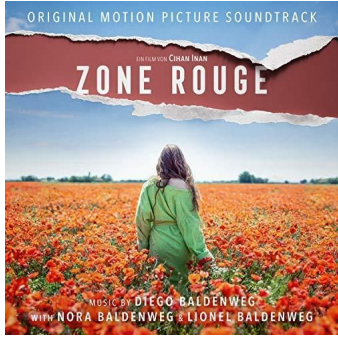
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Zone Rouge (2018) *** 1/2



DIEGO BALDENWEG, LIONEL BALDENWEG, NORA BALDENWEG
Great Garbo Music
12 tracks - 38:01

The Swiss film *Zone Rouge* follows the 25th reunion of five friends whose past slowly bleeds into the present, as old secrets make for questions about why such a tight-knit group of people lost touch with one another. Cihan Inan’s second feature film appeared at last year’s Zurich Film Festival. The sibling team of the Baldenwogs has received numerous awards and nominations for their advertising and feature film work.

The opening “Prologue—Zone Rouge” begins slowly, with ambient piano and a three-note idea that expands outward before circling back on itself. As we move into “Zone 1,” the music has an atmospheric quality, with two pulsing chords added against the piano motif. This material is expanded upon in “Elegie in Z Minor,” where it becomes beautiful but tragic, and the string quartet setting in “L’accumulation” makes for an intriguing contrast.

“La Piscine” features a breathy female vocalise in another striking passage, countered by the trance-like “Vietnam.” Wrapping things up, “Epilogue—Zone Rouge” creates a wistful, yet melancholy feel with warm string writing.

The album also features “Can We Be Young Again,” featuring SALT BAY, which is also presented as an instrumental version.

Zone Rouge is full of interesting soundscapes that make for a dreamy listening experience. —**Steven A. Kennedy**

Comments regarding this review can be sent to: stev4uth@hotmail.com.

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