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Lee 'Scratch' Perry – Master Piece

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Genre: DUB / [REGGAE](#)

The word 'legend' is one that is bandied around the media with apparent aplomb, but there are a few select names who genuinely deserve the accolade for their accomplishments. In the world of reggae / [dub music](#), one such name is Lee 'Scratch' Perry. With decades of pioneering behind him, Perry has released his latest full-length album, 'Master Piece.'



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Based on his 2010 EP, Perry brings his trademark techniques to bear across just over 50-minutes. While some moments, such as the title track definitely occupy familiar reggae territory, this album also sees Perry incorporate some different, modern sounds and textures, breaking tracks down into varied suites in the manner of a classical composer. However, where some composers would use different instruments, Perry is not afraid to switch styles mid-track to alter the mood entirely.

Regardless of which styles Perry is using, the music remains distinctly his, as he layers the various elements to create complex sound-scapes that play across themes and moods like an instrumental collage, with the occasional vocal snippet. This technique is particularly potent where Perry allows himself more time to explore, such as on 'Master Piece' and 'Medusa Dub.'

A quick glance over the track-list will show that Perry has opted to deliver a number of versions of the tracks 'Mr. Upsetter' and 'Forgiveness' back-to-back. However, rather than playing like a repetitive collection, these moments actually serve to show the strength of Perry's production as he tweaks each track into different nuances. The former of the two sees Perry, at times, opting to include the lyrics of Born Free while at others disposing of them completely or chopping them into new forms.

Lee 'Scratch' Perry has been described as a mad genius, even using the name 'Mad Professor' to describe himself. 'Master Piece' shows that, sanity issues aside, Perry is certainly a living legend in his chosen field.