



Phenomena progressive

rock/crossover prog - 51'35 - UK
'20 – 21/09/20

The ESP Project's ([ESP](#)) is Tony Lowe's solo project, since 2015. Now with the release of his 5th CD. Well, I just knew it by name, but had not yet made the effort to listen. So it was with a clear mind that I put an attentive ear to it, knowing that originally you could meet members of King Crimson, GTR, Landmarq or Lifesigns.

Imaginary, captivating, exhilarating and symphonic atmosphere with a touch of dark dramatic 70's nostalgia? While giving a note of hope through the breaks, this is what Tony's music gives; a mix of original melodic rock, all tinged with symphonic-typed breaks, pieces flowing gracefully through the voice and instruments, and can be found through these 7 different pieces.

"First Flight" begins the album with a characteristic sound mixing between Pink Floyd and Barclay James Harvest, slow air, fine melodic chord and enhancement with hovering guitar, worthy of a BOF for the mysterious side, then into an atmospheric musical break, progressive science fiction, which puts the ear on the lookout, before a melodic return and mixed aerial voices. "Before Saturn Turned Away" is more melodic, still reminding me of Stuart John Wolstenholme's tablecloths or Apsaras's, that is to say the hovering side that emerges from it; Slow-mid-term synth section bringing back to nostalgic religious boundary tunes if a voice were to fit into it, a piece more complex than it seems. "Telethesia" denotes a stronger, more energetic, always melodic rhythm however, at the halfway point it becomes enjoyable with a floating feel, almost ethereal voices and then paf the good old church organ that makes you shudder; then a fight between mellotron and synths. "Fear Of Flying" is more in the conventional, monolithic rhythmic air that still seems to serve as a warmer to progressive digression with a fleshy synth ahead, well in the notes of Banks of the 80s.

"Living In The Sunrise" surely has the most beautiful and meditative intro of the album and leads us to a sound evoking a Riverside, the chorus is more ambient, more like Radiohead, syncopated and mysterious; attention, the riff is latent and repetitive, the synths well laid bringing an important musical overlay; the end leaves with a generic atmospheres like "Burning Rope" all finesse. "Sleeping Giants" arrives darker, slower, a little ESP there! From the middle we wait for an orchestral break a tad jazzy then it becomes very fruity, melodic, basic then more progressive with a friendly battle between the keyboard and the guitar, I perceive a little Alan Parsons and the final ocean sound comforts me. "Seven Billion Tiny Sparks" ends this album with the longest piece that Genesis could have released before "Duke": there is still emotion with the beautiful part of the keyboards; then typical crimsonian break to the guitar "Discipline" era; it is only at 2/3 that Alison takes the voice for a quiet, mesmerising and spatial part, a beautiful ballad followed by one of the most beautiful guitar solos filled with emotion and nostalgia. A piece that melts and leaves a musical void, the space after that is still.

ESP Project have released an album of pure progressive rock in the line of a Manfred Mann with song and then orchestral; full of creative energy with Damien's ethereal voice balanced by Tony's varied, progressive, symphonic, melodic and nostalgic musical chords. A very good surprise that reminds us that progressive rock is definitely not buried and risks for our happiness to live for a long time with musicians of this talent. [By Brutus – Link to Full Review](#)