

Al Di Meola - Consequence of Chaos (2006)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 23 April 2011 19:37 - Last Updated Sunday, 13 July 2014 20:53

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01. *San Marco (Moderna)*
02. *Turquoise*
03. *Odyssey*
04. *Tao* [play](#)
05. *Azucar*
06. *Sanctuary*
07. *Hypnose*
08. *Red Moon*
09. *Cry For You*
10. *Just Three Words*
11. *Tempest*
12. *Storm Off-Shore*
13. *Black Pearls* [play](#)
14. *Africana Suite*
15. *San Marco (Vecchio)*

Musicians:

Al Di Meola (guitar);
Barry Miles (piano, keyboards);
Chick Corea (piano);
Mario Parmisano (keyboards);
John Patitucci (double bass);
Victor Miranda (bass guitar);
Ernie Adams (drums, percussion);
Steve Gadd (drums);
Kornel Horvath (udo drum, shaker);
Gumbi Ortiz (percussion).

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In the '70s, guitarist Al Di Meola was the teenage phenom who burst on the scene with pianist Chick Corea and Return to Forever. Three decades later, his Memphisto-like prowess is still in effect, as evidenced by this impressive disc. With a number of world-class musicians--including drummer Steve Gadd, bassist John Patitucci, and keyboardist Barry Miles--Di Meola conjures up a whirling dervish of sounds that easily groove in fusion, world music, and techno contexts. The two versions of "San Marco" are cast in New World improvisations and Old World airs. "Tao," "Hypnose," "Tempest," "Black Pearls," and the "Africana Suite" swing with East Asian, Arabic, and West African harmonic and rhythmic motifs. Corea joins his former bandmate on the Santana-like "Red Moon" and the light but funky "Odyssey." Di Meola, who also plays percussion and keyboards, has grown with the times, with his killer power chords intact. --Eugene Holley Jr.

Allowed one Al di Meola CD to take on my desert island , would this be the one ??
Nope....(that`d be Elegant Gypsy or Tour de Force). But is this a brilliant CD?? - you bet!
Actually, I think time will show us that this is one of Al`s very best (that what he thinks - I think we`ll agree with time..) What fascinates me is that - like no Al CD before - this contains Al`s full CV.... there are pieces of RTF/early di Meola, Orange & Blue, and stuff that could well belong to Tiramisu or even Soaring Through a Dream (remember that one?!). In short: this IS Al di Meola - full spectrum... For those (of us) who were perhaps expecting a return to the raw intensity of the early days, let`s not be disappointed - and let`s give the guy a break ! (how many of us drive or make love like we did back in `78 ?? so why expect the same music from Al?) We do get reminders of the 70s (eg Tempest) but the depth of a truly mature musician shines through on this CD - eg Turquoise cca 3 minutes into the tune - that 1 minute would stand proud on any di Meola cut... So why not 5 stars ?? Quite simply, because whilst Al is a technical virtuoso in his own league, overall-for me- he fails to generate "Band momentum" throughout the CD....(Come to think of it, maybe Orange & Blue was the last time in this respect...) Brilliant pieces of interaction (particularly with the keyboards), and some amazing tunes with real depth, but the dynamism of a real band throughout the whole CD seems missing... And this is at the crux of things I think... Many people have said that they are disappointed / missing the flair of old and of announced.. But is that where it`s at?? I think the flair is there most of the time, with additional depth that makes eg The Wizard and co seem extremely raw - the real issue in my mind is that amongst the depth/sporadic flair Al seems to have "lost the band momentum" that made eg Casino / Electric Rendezvous/ or even Kiss My Axe truly great. No complaints though folks....honestly, how many musicians have given us greater pleasure over the 30 years??
---Jan Hammer

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