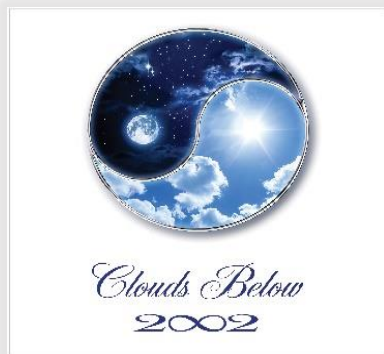


2002

Clouds Below

2002music.com



Probably one of the most notable New Age/Fantasy music bands in the world is **2002**, of the family Copus, who recently gifted their listeners with a new album called **Clouds Below**. If you are new to their music, don't let their name fool you. This modern day band manages to cross through time with music that is both ancient and new and it is wondrous. It is all a matter of balance. Past with future. Moments within a minute. Nanoseconds within the blink of an eye. And then eyes wide open.

2002 is made up of Pamela, Sarah, and Randy Copus who, all together can probably play any musical instrument ever invented. Their talents literally knows no bounds, and when it comes to vocals, I believe the word heavenly comes easily to mind. On *Clouds Below* they combine their skills on ten tracks of mixed genres that include New Age, Fantasy, cinematic, and jazz with a smidgen of progressive art rock in there making it the total ambient experience.

The album opens with a warmly sentimental tune called **Soulmate**. Warbling flute, sparkling piano, and a touch of wispy vocals combine to form a song of illuminated souls dancing high in the heavens like animated stars. What will the mortals think when they look up into the sky on this night?

Glimmering Hope could be the soundtrack as if studying a painting by Manet. This is a piano tune with glistening beauty, a turn of the century theme, and with soft, pastel-like textures that so please the senses. It is the hopeful hearts of so many that drift around on an ocean of prayers and a sea of expectations. Beautiful violin on this by KeyReel Razkolenko. This was an immediate favorite.

Landing is somewhat of a surprise with its jazzy intentions over a soft, droning background. The music implies a lightness, a certain weightlessness that is maintained by white, puffy clouds and earth bound dreamers. But ultimately all must either evaporate or return to the starting point, and so, a Landing. When listening to this song I could only imagine the pianist high above the clouds, weightless, and endlessly falling as if feathers had somehow miraculously changed into musical notes.

City Blue features saxophonist Ryan McCullough is another favorite for its distinctiveness among these mostly New Age offerings. There is a sense of inevitability to the music. The day is done, twilight is upon us, and the time to gather is now. **The Flight Home** is anything if not triumphant. It sounds as if Randy is tickling keys on an old upright piano in the parlor, but then

the vocals sneaks in and the timeline changes to tomorrow. A sweep of strings fades in and Pam's luscious flute arrives to announce we're nearly there on the same level.

What kind of entity abides in the heavens with the power to look below and admire their work down there? At us? At the world? **Clouds Below**, the title track, is a lofty view we cannot perceive with our earthly restrictions, but it is possible to dream. And the dream is an echoing piano that allows its notes to resonate and the vibrations travel deep into the soul. Walking on air now seems like a possibility.

From the very beginning, **Riding the Current** has that 2002 signature sound of sinuous waves of vivid color with a sweet melody pervading the flow. Dreamy guitar and fetching flute complement each other in a delightfully delicate dance. A bit of vocalise materializes and once again our spirits are aloft.

The final cut is called **Everyday Miracles**. It is a polyphonic melody between music box harp and dulcet violin with a generous portion of guitar. This time the violin is by James Song. The music fairly enraptures the listener in wave after wave of new discoveries. The dear old friend gets that letter, holding up the bicycle even after a ten hour shift, or witnessing that tiny little life coo and smile for the joy of living. Miracles are all around us and 2002 captures, in their tender song, the delight and the awe we experience when they occur. Yes, there are happy endings.

Clouds Below takes more than a bird's eye view of the balance between heaven and earth with these mesmerizing melodic tracks. They form a roadmap for an amazing journey. Only this map is written in stars. 2002 never disappoints and their newest offering, which maintains a three way balancing act among the performers, is proof that the band matures and adapts to not only their growing musical environment, but also to the listening world who stands to gain the most. Excellent.

- R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews

