

Hemispherhica Portalis - Portal of a 1000 Years

Desensitized



Dust off your Latin and get ready for seven thrilling synthesized science fiction soundtracks. That's the first thoughts I had when I listened to this remarkable collaboration between two veteran artists and composers, **Deborah Martin** and **Dean De Benedictus** a.k.a. **Desensitized**. **Hemispherhica Portalis - Portal of a 1000 Years** is a unique blending of styles resulting in sublime textural journeys. They traverse space, time and, as we will learn, dimensions. The mix is something arcane, a dexterous concoction of the organic process and the electronic medium. Both artists have been creating music for decades and both are skilled in not only building moods, but also in creating new worlds. Let us explore.

The first track, the title tune **Hemispherhica Portalis** (Portal of 1000 Years) is a sonic revelation. You walk through the mysterious arch and you are whisked to another place. You feel as if you are inside a kaleidoscope of sounds, and the colors that the sounds produce are otherworldly. Even though you are at rest, the extraphysical landscape unrolls before you. What have you done?

Concunus Dracus (Dragon of the Heavens) is very calming. Your initial fears are assuaged. You're getting more comfortable. You begin your strange walkabout. You see stars clusters that you think are familiar. The music drones on, the melody is soothing. Then, every star becomes a pair of eyes. There be dragons here. Sinuously. Silently. Slithering.

Of course, it is virtually impossible to tell who is playing what, but the quavers and waves seem to blend seamlessly into music that is as expansive as it is dreamlike. **Formulata Oblivonos** (A Complicated Tale), perhaps the forgotten formula, is lost to history in this world. You may stumble upon it during your visit here, but you will not remember it.

The next track is called **Ecumenicus Orato** (The Umbilical Center) Is this the universal voice? Gentle horns beckon you, welcome you, and envelop you. The music is softly mesmerizing and you cannot ignore its siren call. You are still in control, but this flowing melody pulls you like an unseen hand. At more than twelve minutes, this is one of my favorites among many.

Saltis Nominus (Floating Seabeds) sets your mind adrift in an ocean of green. Yes, this music has color. You can hear green as in Atlantic shores mixed with forests of drifting seaweed. This tune lets you wander to and fro, but you are buoyant. And oh, this sea is endless.

There is a faint heartbeat in the tune **Terminus Equitos** (Redemption Seeker). It could mean riding to the edge or border and that is what it is. Musically, it is a slightly frenetic journey on winged feet, ever forward, never stopping. The music drives you, and pushes you to an unknown destination.

Amphibinatum (Myths and Legends) is one foot on land and the other in the sea. It could also be a wing or a fin, but it alludes to a visit to both worlds simultaneously. Water and land, places so different that life changes when one is in either, but here it is both. The music is harp-like, calming, reassuring. There are glimpses of the two worlds. Turn this way, there is water. Turn the other way, there is rock. What happens when you look straight ahead?"

What Deborah Martin and Dean De Benedictus have done is taken out their biggest box of creativity, shaken up the contents, and designed music that has trans-dimensional qualities. There is something that is peaceful and heartening about every track on Hemisperhica Portalis. There are boundless textures and endless colors in every tune. With just a touch of the imagination, you could travel for a very long time. You may not want to return. Highly recommended. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews