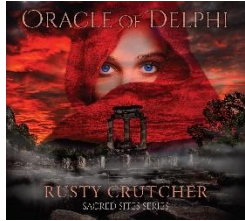


Rusty Crutcher

Oracle of Delphi

<https://rustycrutcher.com/>



This is my first encounter with the music of composer **Rusty Crutcher**. **Oracle of Delphi**, his new release, is just this side of epic with an overall feel for the cinematic. Also, there are subtle hints of classical and ambient flavors that spice up the music in this ten track recording. My advice? Light the incense, pull up the sacred tripod, get comfortable, and let the story enshroud you like a mist. There is mystery and magic in the air.

Welcome to the ancient land known as Mt. Parnassus and home of the Oracle. The opening tune is called **Miriam's Wish**. Her life is overwhelming with her devotion. Crutcher's theme is bold and impassioned. The music is like a supplication constructed of harmonious notes that rise up into the heavens. Surely, the Gods will hear this.

Next we are literally, **Itea Bound**. The power of horns and harp combine to push the journey forward. Just southwest of Oracle, the port is downslope from the mountain. The shining sea beckons us, the Muses are powerful and everywhere. If we quickly look skyward, we might catch a glimpse of Pegasus, for this is his home.

One of my favorite cuts on the album is called **The Song of the Muses**. The music validates everything you have ever heard about them. Beautiful, mysterious, and mesmerizing are they all. Beware, these goddesses have powers unseen and their reach is long and wide. Crutcher's tune does have a lusty, hypnotic sense to it. You will find yourself swaying, nodding, and then... well, you will have to experience it for yourself. Wind, water, and subliminal energies are about.

Pythia's Trance has a dulcet flute that reminds us she is High Priestess over the Temple of Apollo. A single ray of pure, silver moonlight shines down on the altar. Pythia is the Oracle. Drum, guitar, and fluid sounds make up her anthem. Again, we are spellbound by the music. It flows like water through our minds, touching everything. Another outstanding tune on the album.

Castalian Breeze features water, bells, rattles, and drum, and a winding refrain that entrances the listener. One can imagine smelling the spices and the wood smoke and hearing the echoing sounds that come as wave after wave to capture the mind. This is the music of surrender.

The final track is called **Know Thyself** and it is an introspective piece that incorporates an ethereal chorus, a bell heard from afar, kettle drums that signal uncertainty, and the purification of a tiny bell much closer. Rusty's poetically polished tune is epic in scale as the work comes to an otherworldly conclusion.

Other tracks include Aegean Reflections, Apollo Awakens, Center of the World, and Vapors of Apollo. Rusty Crutcher's album is kind of a rarity these days; an album with but a single theme.

Few subjects challenge the mind and spirit like those of ancient mysteries. What is it about fire, water, moonlight, and the desires of Gods that makes humankind search for the unanswered? Crutcher's music motivates us to seek out those answers for ourselves, his music an inspiration that calls to us like ancient fire on the hill. Only this beacon is made out of musical notes of sound and light. Highly listenable. - R J Lannan, Artisan Music Reviews