



VAST DAYS

A BLOW BEHIND CONSCIOUSNESS

THE NEW VAST DAYS ALBUM TRANSPORTS TO INDEFINABLE MINDSCAPES.

I close my eyes and embrace the darkness. The silence is quickly broken by tunes that overcome me with their first contact. I'm sitting still but my mind begins to wander. I release the steering wheel and let go, surrendering to a 45 minute ride to new indefinable musical and mental landscapes.

It has now been a few days since my "road trip" and the man behind VAST DAYS is standing in front of me. It's time to find out where this guy, who without permission grips your consciousness for a pretty intense journey, comes from.

Out of nowhere, would describe the origins of the music (in a good sense), since although the man behind VAST DAYS, Ali Kesanto, is from southern Finland, the sound is totally without any reference to geography. The obvious musical influences that come to mind are Massive Attack and Enigma, although Ali claims not to own any Enigma albums and compared to the Bristol natives, VAST DAYS music is in a way richer in nuances.

"All the songs in Metatonic are uniquely structured and each song has its own characteristics and emotional charge."

These "musical stories" seem to fit together just perfectly, like pieces in a puzzle, to form a fantastic whole that somehow feels to transcend space and time.

"The inspiration was mainly drawn from a world and dimensions that are deeper than the everyday consciousness."

Although Ali explains that the music comes from his own experiences and feelings in the deeper levels of consciousness, the music really opens up in a unique way for every listener as the atmospheres invite you to create your own experience with it.

"Everyone truly has their own interpretation of the music and can create their own multidimensional experience with it; that is the real beauty of the album."

All the songs and lyrics in Metatonic are created by the man sitting across the table. In addition to this one man orchestra, the album features vocals from very talented singers: Kathleen Procter-Moore and Yoko K. Kathleen is a mezzo-soprano who currently lives in

Australia. She has performed in various musicals and operas in Opera Australia and her well trained and powerful voice truly captivates the listener. Yoko resides in Washington D.C. where she creates and performs her own unique organic electro-ambient tunes in the local scenery. Yoko also tours with Rob Garza's (from Thievery Corporation) new solo project Dust Galaxy playing the keyboards. Yoko's ethereal voice is sensual and alluring and in its softness almost the opposite for Kathleen's grandiose sound. Together they create a refreshingly wide vocal spectrum for the album. Both singers have really exceptional talent and with that extra depth in their emotional scenery, fit the album's varying atmospheres perfectly.

The artists came together in the vibrating frequencies of the intertwined network.

"I met Yoko and Kathleen in the internet, in ways which you might call lucky coincidences, if you didn't know better (he gives me an intriguing smile). We simply seemed to be in the same wave-length right from the start so everything flowed quite smoothly on its own delicate pace. Since the songs have a certain penetrating and heartfelt atmosphere, it was extremely important for the collaboration that we all connected on a deeper level."

That deeper connection also made it possible for the singers to record their vocals at their own favourite studios. This intercontinental approach meant sending tracks digitally back and forth across the continents, before the songs were finally put together, mixed and finalized by Ali, in his own studio in Finland.

"I think this record proves that if you are mentally connected, the geographical distances really don't mean anything in today's world of music creation."

Our coffee cups have been empty for a while and the interview draws to a close. This man really didn't explain too much about himself.

"Let the music do the talking..." were his last word before we parted.

And that indeed the music does; Metatonic clearly is one of the most ingenious, beautiful and moving albums of this year. In the words of the composer: "Experience and expand."