

# Ghost in the Machine

By

Earthshine

Written by

Steve Sheppard

Ghost in the Machine is the latest release from **Earthshine** and with each collection of songs, *Peter Cox*; the ever so talented Dutch multi-instrumentalist, just gets better and better. To emphasise that statement, you really have to listen to the opening piece on the album called **HAUNTED is the House**.

In my view this first offering, is the single best piece of work **Earthshine** have created thus so far, it morphs from *Jarre* to *David Wright* and then towards the end, with the slight but very relevant percussion, shifts towards fellow Dutch EM performer *Frank Pells* in performance. The balance of the composition and the arrangement is simply perfect and creates a superb sense of ambience that one could literally feel like one was about to enter a realm, an old haunted mansion of great mystery and fear. The level of apprehension at both the start and the end of this track leaves you musically full filled, but with a sense of suspense always hovering with intent somewhere around!

This album is a four piece collection of long form compositions, the keyboards feature in a delightful and very artistic way on the second song called **Reverse IN going forward**. Cox has manifested a really clever piece here with the use of the keyboard strings to create an aged sound throughout the composition and a somewhat careful piano performing the role of narrator in the early stages. At the midway segments of this piece we have a sense of energy as the percussion kicks in and the keyboards give us a regal tone of grandeur to enjoy and one of my personal favourite slices of musical cleverness can be found at around five and a half minutes with a superb minimalistic sequence, that is

very much in the guise of *Phillip Glass*. Cox then employs an almost *Pink Floyd* styled Saxophone, which enters stage left and seals a really classy arrangement.

Our third and penultimate offering is called **Philosophy of THE Mind**, Once more *Peter Cox* creates something very different from the last two pieces, but retains the narrative with ease as we move into the inner workings of the most dangerous weapon us humans have, our minds! **Earthshines** creation here is almost like opening that mind, and exploring all that we need to give it balance. This analytical creation works on many levels of musical introspection, but it's the piano that seals the piece for me, the staccato influenced performance is almost like the actual thoughts of the mind running around in circles, and what follows in the wake of this mental perambulation, is its final invention of constant reinvention and endless scenarios. Well I hope that was sufficiently philosophically engaging for you.

The final doorway to our salvation from **Earthshine's** haunted machine is called **Steam up that ENGINE**. The start of this track is sublime; most electronic fans on listening to it will be in rapture. This reminds me of some of the deeper and darker tracks of both *Kevin Kendle* and *Geigertek*, both masters of this genre. Cox has built something quite brilliant here, and one can almost see the **Ghost in the Machine!** The floating and chilling tones continue until we are gifted one of the smoothest segments on the album at around three minutes, where the keyboards and some very light percussive qualities drift around us like a musical mist. This is a release that you must listen to in its entirety dear reader, if you do not do so, you will miss something extremely artistic, like the Wakeman styled synth at around four and a half minutes. This in my view is simply inspired and almost takes us back to grand of 70's progressive rock era. This leads us onwards to a combination of drums and keyboards that are amazing to listen to, my third time now and I still want more. As we move on down the musical rails of this track, Cox even has time to lay a little gentle jazz ethic on us towards the latter half of this quite incredible composition. Now carefully listen to the end of this one, it will leave you with the feeling of, is there still more to come, is there something standing right behind you? If you're climbing the stairs whilst listening to this on your head phones, perhaps

it may be a good idea, to **not** look over your shoulder before you turn out the light!

We can celebrate with glee, as **Earthshine** have created their best release so far, **Ghost in the Machine** maybe long form, but its easily their best release by a musical mile, its expressive, it's amazingly artistic, it's a crafted album of great style, class and quality and it should be in your music collection as soon as possible.