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***At War With Self - Torn Between Dimensions***

2005 Free Electric Sound/Lasers Edge Records

There are quite a bit of finite prog, metal, or fusion instrumental groups coming out of the woodwork, and when these groups release a record, the player's names on the liner notes are usually always familiar, offering those musicians in particular, a way to "release" and express themselves beyond any band they might be anchored with.

Take for instance At War With Self, a trio that features fusion bassist Michael Manring, Fates Warning drummer Mark Zonder, and guitarist/multi-instrumentalist/AWWS brainchild Glenn Snelwar (Gordian Knot). At first it's hard to say what to expect from these guys working together; of course the elements from the bands/projects that these guys have been involved with are present, but the element of dark and often dense production as well as the songwriting ability brought to the table is what gives this record its main strength, for which entitles this piece of work to stand out amongst many instrumental records.

Although a thick atmospheric record throughout, the ten tracks on Torn Between Dimensions have their own personality. Opening up with "The God Interface," which offers sort of a Jeekyll and Hyde approach, goes from the sharp driving metal structure to more eased flowing acoustic pastures played against Manring's flowing fretless. It's at this point, clear to us where this record might be headed. Following that same structure are tracks such as the Attention Deficit Disorder/Zappa styling of "Grasping at Nothing," the Jazz textured "A Gap in the Stream of Mind, Pt. 1," as well as the final song that bears the band's name; but it's not all a frenzy where contrast of musical structures are found within the songs. There are the hook filled/riff laden opuses such as what sounds like a long lost OSI cut "The Event Horizon" and the title track, where the guitar sings out melodies in the absence of a vocalist; even dark soundscapes ala Porcupine Tree such as "A Gap...Pt. 2" and the ethereal "A Gap...Pt. 3" (appropriate) find their way on Torn Between Dimensions, bringing a more eased bank pace to this otherwise hard driving record.

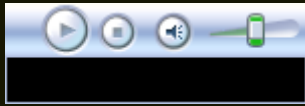
The record itself entails breathing room for all the instrumentation involved, electric and acoustic guitars, basses, percussion, and keyboard pads; the music flows from track to track like a concept record would. In the end, it's a fairly different instrumental record, and although comparisons can be drawn, Torn Between Dimensions is an album unto itself.

**Added:** April 1st 2005**Reviewer:** Tommy Hash**Score:** ★★★★★**Related Link:** Lasers Edge Records**Hits:** 247**Language:** albanian[ [Back to Reviews Index](#) | [Post Comment](#) ]

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