

# Carpe Noctem

By

Peter Calandra

Written by

Steve Sheppard

There is always a moment within a year that I relish, one of those moments is upon us right now, a **Peter Calandra** release, this time on the back of his album *Piano improvisations* he offers something very different indeed, as he gives us his latest work of genius entitled **Carpe Noctem**, which translates to *seize the night!*

One of the main reasons I adore a new Calandra release is that it allows me, the ever eager listener of incredible music, to voyage on another journey with one of the world's best composers of contemporary instrumental and classical music around today.

Our musical travels starts with the gentle and reverential offering called **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**. The vocals here are layered so beautifully to give that charming and all-encompassing ethereal effect that creates many memory filled moments of magic for us to wonder among, and is of course the perfect starting opus.

The artists fluency is simply beyond anything you may have listened to before and on **Carpe Noctem (Seize the Night)**, the title track, that will become very evident indeed, the choir of angelic voices sing out from high and manifest a night time dimension where the rules of day and light do not apply, here anything is possible. This is such a wonderfully charismatic composition, and one that is bathed in so much emotion as well. This truly moved me, as I hope it does you as well.

From the depths of night, one of the most magical times of day is nearly upon us, this arrangement is **Aurora Scanderé (Dawn Rising)**, a moment of dawn, that clear and crisp air filled blissful segment of time, when all manifestations can slowly become realities, when dreams can become the pathways of the truth ahead. The artist brings to the musical table a superb composition that builds progressively in film score style, and increases its tempo to a moment of sublime crescendo.

**Crucifixus (Crucifixion)** has to be one of the most emotive offerings on this release and regardless of any religious connotations, Calandra has created something so very real, so very emotional; one can feel the moment through the music with ease. The brass sections are incredibly poignant and layered so delicately with the choir, that they bring a level of musical genius that would be hard to rival if you lived for eons.

We now move toward the middle of the release and come across one of the more ambient offerings on the album and called **Ars Vitae (Art Is Life)**. I have a specific love for modern art, and used to enjoy walking through the hallowed halls of the Tate Modern in London, I could do that with this track on repeat with ease. Calandra is inspired here, mixing choral works with synths and keyboards, in a neo classical style that

treads dimensions of musical intellect as of thus so far untouched. Yes, this was my personal favourite from the release.

**Illuminare (Illumination)** is that musical marker that sees us drift over the half way line, this gentle reverie is a veritable bed of tranquillity, one could watch the day unfurl and then shiver with artistic joy as the first rays of sunlight drift on a hill of wild flowers, with the cadence of the day ahead. The orchestral movements and the hovering string sections are simply sublime and will raise the hairs on the back of your neck with a joyful abundance of glee and happiness, now this is what I would call a breath-taking arrangement.

Let's now drift down the valleys of the second half of the album with the piece **Invictus Bellator (Unconquered Warrior)**. One can but admire the elevated level of intensity on this offering, but it is so well arranged that it does not overwhelm the piece. The gentle progression is also deliberate, but perfect and manifests a steady energy of movement with purpose within the track; it is as if the unconquered warrior himself is nearing our location and as the pale rider breaches the horizon, the composition increases in a marvellous moment of tempo, power and determination all rolled into one quite stunning arrangement.

One thing we all like is a **Mane Pacificae (Peaceful Morning)**. Well the good news is that **Peter Calandra** has now created the soundtrack for that most important of time segments of the day. For me, a lover of classical music, this once again moves me; the string sections and brass combine to bring something so very special and musically delicate too, almost like watching a flower open for the first time.

We have just had a blood moon and fortunately here on our island the pollution that light creates is not that bad, on **Luna Benedictus (Moon Prayer)**, the shortest piece off the release, we have a wonderful ambient offering that depicts for me, the moments I spend in partnership and meditation with the silver energy of the moon perfectly, short form maybe, but the piano and orchestration manifest a real treat of a piece.

We have slowly steered our musical boat to the penultimate bay of the album and here on **Sacrum Spera (Sacred Trust)**, Calandra's skills as an all-round musical genius are truly evident. This composition is filled with a sacred energy indeed, but the musical tides of the arrangement, create for us a place of depth and tone to enjoy. The orchestration and choir keep that ebb and flow of harmonious brilliance in a perfect melodious cohesion; this is truly a special piece indeed.

Finally we dock at the last port of the release and are given one last moment of symphonic bliss to enjoy before we must depart this musical dimension, this gift is entitled **Spiritus Mundi (World Spirit)**. Calandra, like the master he is, has left the most uplifting track till last. Energy of oneness can be found here, a realisation of unity as well. Perhaps through Calandra's last track, he may well find he has created an anthem for the world, and through this musical reverie, we may all get to smell the white rose of peace at last.

**Carpe Noctem** by **Peter Calandra** is another in a line of quite breath-taking albums by the musician and composer, and I can see no reason why the album shouldn't been seen on the shelves of the world's public, under the files marked "Amazing Music". One will find pristine productions, perfect arrangements and more. Calandra is one of those artists that continuously produces extremely high quality albums and **Carpe Noctem** can now be added to that list. This is absolutely recommended without a shadow of doubt.