

Summoning the Muse

By

Incendio

Written by

Steve Sheppard

Waiting for a new **Incendio** album is the excitement level for me, of a child waiting for Christmas day to come, but that day is finally here and **Summoning the Muse** is at last on my player, and I have the honour to review it for you.

I have always thought that Incendio have been at or near to the front of the new age global fusion genre for years, but this album goes way beyond anything that they have produced before and hails them now as being the best in the world at what they do.

The sheer passion and energy that flows from the opening piece is brilliantly vibrant and called **Monte Carlo**. That sultry Latin fire smoulders with the intensity of an August afternoon, guitars just never sounded so good.

Rumba Poderosa is the first piece that raises the bar even higher than the normal quality standard of the band, we have come to expect work like the previous track from Incendio, it's their trademark, but this offering is a step further towards legendary status, the bass from Carbe is some of the most rhythmic and clear I have heard from the artist, and with an electric joining acoustic in the guitar segments, this brought us a simply outstanding composition of supreme style, but it doesn't stop there.

There is always a good sign that I may be enjoying an album, one is that whilst writing I forget to breathe, this I have just done, I don't recommend it, it's vital we breathe, but I'm just so excited about this album, even more so when I hit upon this piece called **Running**. The unexpected disco beat here and quite stunning percussion from *Tim Curle* is smooth and creates a wonderful sense

of movement and passion combined, the usage of the electronic elements in this offering make it a real stand out piece for this writer.

By the time I have reached **Dog Mountain** I can take a breather, the beauty of the music here is akin to that moment you reach a peak, a view of great natural splendour hits your vision and you simply go “Wow”. Once more beautifully arranged and smoothly produced, the perfect partnership of minor and major made this a truly memorable offering for me, one that at times I felt quite emotional over.

Every track thus far has been of standout quality, **Summoning the Muse** is indeed a special album, that unique brilliance continues with the piece **Don't Pretend**. How can you not love this one? It's like funk meets Santana, I felt like picking up the microphone and singing *Smooth* like *Rob Thomas*, it's that great, we're now cooking with Latino heat brother.

Blue Bolero is a truly sensual offering, one of a deep romantic nature, the guitar here is the chief narrator of this musical image, and the sultry dance ethic has us transfixed with added piano and the slight bluesy feel, here we have yet another unique, but incredibly attractive offering from the band.

I'm lucky enough to live in a tropical paradise, and most mornings when I awake; I pull up the blinds to reveal a beautiful vista of lapis oceans and blue skies. Well you have pretty much guessed that this piece called **Morning in Maui**, it really sums this feeling up for me as well. Beautiful in composition, a dramatic film score string section and a melody that will move you to tears of happiness.

There is a little smooth jazz feel to this next composition that is so adorable, it is called **First Hill**. One could imagine within this track a desire to hit the open road, or ramble within nature, the sun shines gloriously and happiness can be found in every pocket where beauty blooms, this is a real feel good piece, like the theme music for Cheers, but on guitar!

We're now in the deeper part of this musical woodland, as we continue this blissful voyage we come across another masterful moment called **At Dawn We Ride**. We find the band back on familiar **Incendio** territory here, the light hearted and fun percussion, and the engine room of the band in *Liza Carbe*

give us that sense of movement, whilst Stubblefield and Durand create the onward ethic fluency and intent, this is one of those arrangements that will have you whistling all day long and you won't even know you're doing it!

The piano at the start of **High Tide** was really scene setting, then the inclusion of Stubblefield and Durand on guitars created a really smooth chilled narrative for us to enjoy. I could imagine enjoying this one on the beach, not that we get tides here in Cyprus, but the surroundings would be perfect for this so soothing and tranquil offering.

So, as someone once said, now its time for something completely different and the penultimate offering off the album is called **Limitless**. The disco feel and modern percussive beat would make this a huge hit on the Mediterranean and I wonder if they have ever thought of releasing this as a single, it would be massive.

We now finish with a flourish and a really rousing ending composition called **Amazon River Hoedown**, the track contains some stunning *Devil Went Down To Georgia* styled violin from *Joe Craven*, an accordion came courtesy of the much celebrated performer *Joel Guzman*, who had apparently played for non-other than *Paul Simon* the day before this recording was made, this song is the best creation to leave the album possible, a grandstand finish indeed.

Summoning the Muse is certainly a step into the world of pop and dance for the band, but in a way that their fans (which include me) will both appreciate and totally love. In my view this is the most vibrant and consistent album **Incendio** have ever produced and I can see this becoming a huge hit on the worlds stage and the charts, and is simply at all costs an album you must have in your ever growing musical collections at all costs.