

A Journey for Mankind

By

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You can pretty much guarantee that something special is going to be on the horizon when the team of Moore and Finzer join forces; their last few releases have been truly exceptional. It's not often I get the opportunity to write about their music, so I am going to enjoy the moment, especially as the theme is about celebrating the moon landings of no less than 50 years ago, on a release called **A Journey For Mankind**.

Our first musical sojourn is entitled **Dawn At The Coast**, a more scenic and scene setting piece you will never find, you can be right there in the moment as the sun rises over the cape, and a crackle of expectancy hangs in the air like a ripe orange waiting to fall to the ground, a perfect hovering flute and keyboards depicting this most tranquil, yet expectant time of day.

The energy of this moment continues to increase in intensity and as we knock on the portal described as **Trans-Lunar**, we have another shift in energy, a percussive beat kicks in and Finzer's flute narrates the upbeat sense of the day and the excitement of the moment. This composition would be perfect for any documentary on the subject matter, and flows with a sublime sense of exhilaration.

I was just a mere 12 years old when man took his first steps on another world, I hope to see it happen again on Mars, but think it may be unlikely. On **A Song for Distant Earth**, the duo gives us a musical perspective of what it's like to look down on your own world from a perspective of being external to it. The keyboards of Moore truly create an outer worldly ethic, while Finzer's flute is deep and moving in its manifestation of this graphic composition.

The longest offering on the album at just over seven minutes in duration is **Shadow of the Moon**. I remember the start of *Pink Floyd's "Shine on Crazy Diamond"* and the beginning of this piece reminded me of that greatly, minus the guitar of course. However unlike that track, here is an offering that continues its lush sense of ambience, and actually creates an arrangement that is so powerful, as it indeed would be to actually see the moon close up. There is a wonderful sense of awe and respect that is beautifully built into this piece that I loved, and it made this composition my favourite offering off the album.

The skill of any artist is to be able to paint what they see and bring that artistic endeavour into your reality, so that you feel it, hear it and can touch it, with this next piece that is indeed possible. **Blue Pearl in a Black Sky** is one of those heavenly tracks, that perfectly draws a juxtaposition of the Earth and the bed of blackness it sleeps within, this offering from Moore and Finzer is a real heart felt opus of gratitude for our world, and the fragility of the life that lives upon it.

Tranquillity Base has to be one of the most ambient offerings I have ever heard from the partnership. *The Sea of Tranquillity* was always a place of mystery and imagination for me and for other artists who have constructed songs about this region of Luna too. Moore and Finzer on flute and keyboards somehow manage to manifest something close to perfection with this offering and once more, you could actually be right there, witnessing the glory of the moment.

Magnificent Solitude may only be just over two minutes long, but this short form arrangement has a sense of majesty about its construction, the keyboards and flute combination have a sense of perfect symbiosis here, the symphonic effect is also incredibly moving as well.

Amazing but true, it's time to wend our weary way home from the surface of the moon, we now lift off and drift back on a path home within the track **Trans-Earth**. There is a real sense of apprehension built in here that is riveting, are things going to go well on the take off, then a feeling of movement drops into illustrate that all is going as planned, the flute of Finzer then narrates a smooth glide path back home.

This is our last track **Night Sky in Wonder**, one that I can really relate to, each night during the summer I go into our pool for a swim, then lay on my back in the dark looking up at the night sky in wonder. With a style reminiscent of Deuter, Moore and Finzer manifest the perfect ending track, one that leaves us with a sense of appreciation for what we have and what we have just experienced, and one would hope a sense of gratitude for our planet too. This is simply beautiful at all levels, and a thoroughly blissful way to leave what has been a truly emotive, but awe and jaw dropping voyage of musical mastery.

A Journey for Mankind is like our time tunnel to an age when the Earth's inhabitants thought outward with an open heart, rather than inwardly with a closed mind. This album rekindles that sense of awe and wonder, that freedom, excitement, and resonates sublimely with the expectations we have buried inside us all. The performances by Moore and Finzer are akin to two of the best artists in the world, painting a masterpiece for the ages, something for us to look back on, listen to and appreciate forever.