

Guitare Mystique

By

Jim Stubblefield

Written by

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Acoustically speaking *Jim Stubblefield* is one of the best in the business, his music has a true flavour and colour and can raise the rhythm's or soothe the soul and here on his latest release he does both with ease.

You only have to listen to **Saint Tropez**, the first offering from his latest release **Guitare Mystique** and you will see why, so fluent and flowing and radiant, the performance here is defiantly sun kissed, the guitars both electric and acoustic work supremely well with the percussion to deliver a perfect opening piece.

As we move to **Caravan of Souls** we come across a beat driven arrangement that has a deep resonating bass and a magical guitar that draws with ease the narrative of the journey we are on, and at each Caravansary, we stop for water and wipe our brows in the heat of the day. Stubblefield has produced a little slice of perfection here, one that we can admire, one that will leave you jaw dropped at his amazing skills on guitar.

When I walk along our coastline here in Cyprus, sometimes I sit and watch the kingfishers fly across the Azure Ocean, and watch with pleasure the tides of nature take control of the day. The track **Azure** could easily be a soundtrack for that mental perambulation. There is an emotive deepness within this piece that I adore and a latent power that seems to float in the distance, in what is yet another very classy offering.

I have a weakness for any track that has the word storm in the title; I always feel the subject matter has such potential to produce something amazing. Stubblefield does not let me down on the track **Before The Storm**, and

performs a piece that could easily be the backdrop to November here in the Mediterranean; our season of storms starts then, and like this piece, you can sense them from miles away, and await the roar of thunder and the flash of lightning. Stubblefield uses vocalisations, a rhythmic beat and moody keyboards to create that for us, the guitar is our hand on the tiller in this piece, and safely draws us into a simply amazing composition with sublime genius.

Now I have to be honest here, Jim dropped into our chat room for my *Reconnections* show and told me the back story behind this piece **Café Café**. This is Latin chill out at its best, and pays a cheeky tip of the hat to all of those tracks invented by artists that have the word Café in the title somewhere. Anyone for a Latte?

Now we have arrived at the longest song off the album and this one is called **Voyager Aeternam**. Now I think Aeternam means eternal, if this is so, Stubblefield has manifested something quite brilliant here, as the sound and tempo has that seasoned and ageless feel to it, a journey that lasts forever, the strings (*Novi Novog*) here add such a wonderful extra dimension to this arrangement.

Moonlight Requiem picks up the tempo very slightly, but has a real mournfulness about its energy, I have been that way recently with the loss of two friends and a family member, and in a way I think this is why this piece spoke to me, this is like a musical dark night of the soul, the strings here are almost eerie and the sombreness of the guitar, adds a true mortal energy to the composition.

Stubblefield is back on familiar territory now with this next piece called **Oculus Tempestatis**. The artist is in full Incendio mode here and the vocalisations by *Moksha Summer* were perfect. However don't be fooled by the guitars, as Stubblefield performs for us on an electric guitar on this one, while the acoustic duties are handed to *Stephen Duros*, in what is a truly sensational composition.

So we find ourselves at the penultimate doorway of our journey with **Jim Stubblefield** and come across a track called **Rumba Furiosa, Opus 2**. This is classic Stubblefield and we even have a duel here with *Dan Sistos* on the

composition. This partnership gives us a really fun number to dance away and tap our feet to.

The last port of call has been reached as we come to the end of the album, but before we go the artist would like to gift us one last musical offering to take along on our way. This present of tone and tune is extremely rhythmic and is called **Sueno Pacifico**. In a way it feels like we have come full circle, however this upbeat and quite sparkling opus really is the perfect way to leave in truth what has been a really delightful journey to have taken. The electric guitar adds weight to the composition in a Black Magic Woman kind of way.

Guitare Mystique is a breath of fresh air, a magical musical moment we all need from time to time. With each release Stubblefield just keep on getting better and in my view this is the best I have heard so far. This is an album packed with colour, movement, melody and passion, you will also find some of the best guitar based performances you will have heard for ages, which will leave you with only one sensible option, to buy this album as quick as you can and let the contents within, re-energize you as much as it did me.