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Michael Landau - "Organic Instrumentals"



Michael Landau - "Organic Instrumentals" CD Review by Scott Thomas

Michael Landau is perhaps the most widely respected session guitarist of all time. On "Organic Instrumentals", he once again proves to be the ultimate connoisseur of taste and tone as he navigates a cinematic assortment of musical landscapes.

Well, I'm sitting here listening to the New Michael Landau CD "Organic Instrumentals" and I'm totally chillin' to the first tune "Delano". The song starts out w/ a cool breezy acoustic jazzy-type melody line and as the song progresses, it moves into a groovy electric guitar vibe with some of the best cutting distortion lead blues tone I've heard in awhile. One moment you are floating on some contemporary jazz ala George Benson and in a blink of an eye you are visiting Electric Lady Land... The electric guitar-vibe is a cross between Hendrix and Stevie Ray. The main melody line sounds like it could be the musical theme to a hit television show like "Friends" or "Cheers" or something in that realm of music... I'm totally dig'n the contrast of soundz here.

Sneaker Wave – Now this is definitely out there in left field... The guitar soundz are out of this world. Landau goes from hippy-trippy hypnotic melodies to wide open

reverberated harmonic chord progressions that remind me allot of Eric Johnson. The lead lines are dynamic, exciting and soulful. This is inspiring to say the least.

Spider Time - Backward guitarz and again a Hendrixy sounding melodic chord-structure with one single straight-ahead beat on the ol' toms. Man oh man, this kat Landau has got some chops. This has an early Mark Knofler feel to it. The Keys on this are also top-notch. I love that Wurlitzer sound. The music is moving and has a very reflective vibe in itz mist.

Landau constructs some of the most melodically beautiful phrases ever recorded with passion drenched guitar solos, resulting in a guitar tour de force that must be heard to be believed.

The Big Black Bear - I think the words here are "g-force"... The music pulls you one minute and then propels you the next. You actually pull some g-forces on this one while listening. The lead lines couldn't get any sweeter sounding either. I feel a little dizzy after this flight in the aural skies of Landau and company.

Karen Mellow - I can say one thing for sure. Michael Landau is DEEP ! I mean his music reaches the deepest levels of my unconsciousness real-estate that I thought I never had. No kiddin' right ...?! I don't know what kind of amps he uses, but his guitars sounds are so smooth and classy. The music has many highs and lows in it. The sounds go from very mellow to bombastically loud in an instance, giving you a rollercoaster type of effect.

Acting as both engineer and producer, Landau is a master craftsman, working the recording console with the same artistry with which he approaches playing the guitar

As far as the rest of the Album goes, there are plenty more interesting arrangements and impressive guitar-hero type playing. The music is all rock/blues oriented with jazz fusion undertones, laced and interwoven into to Landau's fabric of sound. Moreover, "Tone" is your thing, then this CD is Pure Tone Paradise.

There is now denying it, Michael Landau is a Master Harmonic Craftsman of Sound with a guitar in his hands. I highly recommend this CD for your listening pleasure.

