



The Sounding Board by R J Lannan

RJ Lannan is the reviewer for The Sounding Board.

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- *The Weight of Time* by Timothy Davey, reviewed by RJ Lannan on 12/27/2008

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Atlantis: A Symphonic Journey

By David Arkenstone

Label: Narada

Released 9/7/2004

Atlantis: A Symphonic Journey tracks

1. The Dream of the Gods
2. Tower of Light
3. The Gardens of the Citadel
4. The Temple of Poseidon
5. Jewel of the Sea
6. Festival of the Goddess
7. The Painted Sails
8. Across the Great Oceans
9. Fire and Water
10. Below the Ocean - The Spirit of Atlantis

"A" Marks the Spot

In the last few years multi-instrumentalist and composer **David Arkenstone** has been on his own extraordinary journey. He has traveled musically on the oldest of old paths of the Celts, walked the magical passages of Middle Earth, rode with the warriors of the plains and walked many of the untrodden roads of America. He returns to a mystical place to instigate new wonder and fresh discovery with his latest release [Atlantis: A Symphonic Journey](#). Why does the vanished continent of Atlantis hold such enduring fascination for scholars and dreamers? Perhaps the questions can be addressed in Arkenstone's vivid and vitalized compositions.

David Arkenstone has been making musical history for almost two decades. I first started listening to him because I read a lot of science fiction. His music added an animated dimension that helped spark my imagination. His millions of fans that have elevated him to that of New Age superstar may have their own reasons. He is a musical journeyman and he is able to share his adventures with us while allowing us to imagine our own.

Arkenstone moved from the Midwest to California at an early age. Growing up his interests in music led him through the usual high school bands, performance groups and writing music. He embraced the computer age with open arms and harnessed computer power to release his own imagination. I can just picture his sense of glee when he laid down his first tracks on a synthesizer. And today he has two Grammy nominations and has topped several charts in various genres many, many times.

In the first cut [The Dream of the Gods](#) inorganic voices introduce us to the elements we will face on our travels in search of Atlantis and the fate of its people. The ship's stores are full, the sails are set and the winds are kind as we begin our quest. The strings and woodwinds blow at our backs urging us onward across friendly seas.

[The Painted Sails](#) is the kind of song that Arkenstone does best. It has that joyous motion to it that says we are on a journey and we will discover something astounding. The horns and flutes carry us away as the percussion and xylophone tinkle in our ears like raindrops on glassy waters. The song is reminiscent of several cuts on his album *In Wake of the Wind*.

[Jewel of the Sea](#) features Arkenstone in a solo piano intro that segues into a lush orchestral anthem of oceans

found and seas waiting to be discovered. The flute sings of sparkling blue waves and bloody red calms that ebb and flow through our minds like a summer's moon on wave kissed shores.

[**The Temple of Poseidon**](#) is a gentle tune, almost a kind of pause on our vibrant sea journey. Dignified horns and flourishing strings guide us to the sacred dominion of the god of the sea whose blessing we seek to insure a safe voyage. Fire and Water is a Middle Eastern zeybek of energy and festivity. Echoing voices and lively percussion celebrate two of earth's better elements. There is alchemy in our future.

[**Below the Ocean - the Spirit of Atlantis**](#) is the last cut on the album. This song of glory and celebration features the magnificent voice of **Miriam Stockley** of Adiemus fame. Curiously enough there are tribal multi-syllabic voices on the cut as well. There is closure in this tune that makes us wonder if we are ever to see that marvelous long sought after land? If not, then where will our journey end?

A lot of thought went into **Atlantis: A Symphonic Journey**. It is as if Arkenstone stood on the shore of the mysterious metropolis and watched life happen around him. He saw a thriving city of opulence, erudition and contentedness. I do not call it the lost continent of Atlantis because it is out there somewhere just waiting to be rediscovered. **David Arkenstone** told me so.

Rating: Excellent 

- reviewed by RJ Lannan on 12/19/2004

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