

# Deep Space Blue

By

**Jim Ottaway**

Written by

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The tale of an astral traveller can be told here, one who floats with the winds of tone and tide, to become one with the sonic nature of sublime electronic music. That opportunity is here right now for us all, a chance to step aboard Starship Ottaway, and plunge into a space deep and blue, with the artist.

That rather elaborate opening statement signifies just how much this album means to me, **Jim Ottaway** is an Australian electronic musician, who over the years has taken massive strides in this industry and genre, and now must be recognised as one of its modern day leaders. He has been imperious in the world 100 charts with hits like *Invisible Vortex*, *Timeless e Motion* and *Southern Cross*, and here he is again with a more floaty electronic ambient collection of compositions entitled **Deep Space Blue**.

The opening offering is called **Astral Voices**; this heavenly arrangement pulls us into a mysterious dimension of sight and sound. There is a deep sense of something wondrous just out of view here, the keyboards and synths of Ottaway manifest a truly vast oasis of musical genius, and I for one would find it easy to get lost in **Astral Voices**.

**In Search of the Lost Star** is a totally different composition, the start is almost like a trumpet call to arms, perhaps a reveille of a long distant place once thought to be lost in space and time? One thing is for sure, the music of **Jim Ottaway** allows the imagination to flow beautifully with his subtle use of keyboards. This is indeed a piece that conveys a slow scan of the immediate systems for a sign of a point of light that seems to have passed away in the midst's of an interplanetary event. There is a real element of mournfulness

about this piece, perhaps even a drone of sadness too, the construction of this arrangement is stunning.

At the midway segment of our flight through music, we come across a composition called **39.5 Light- Years (Trappist 1)**. There is a certain element of *Jonn Serrie* here, the slow build up and creation, the master brush strokes of a genius at work, this is one arrangement that you will have to listen carefully, and dedicate a moment not to be disturbed. This long form track has a floaty essence about its overall construction, but also contains lighter elements of classic EM as well, and the swirling nature of this track at almost the half way point, reminds me of *Kevin Kendle's Light from Orion* album, and quite simply is one of those pieces that you will find impossible to pull away from it is so addictive.

As we now traverse into the latter half of the release we arrive at the next doorway, once opened it will reveal an opus of well over seven minutes called **Stars of Ice**. The style and use of synths here has produced a wonderful coldness about the piece that literally forms crystalline shards of music within our minds as it plays. Ottaway's performance here is quite frankly, amazing, he seems to have created space, perhaps room for us all, to explore this region of space, but holding back on the keyboards, as if allowing our minds to take the track in the direction we wish it to go, and all the while his hands are firmly on the musical tiller.

As we reach the penultimate track, we find to our pleasure the title header **Deep Space Blue**. As such you have well over eleven minutes to strap yourself in and enjoy the ride, this is truly something special. Ottaway has quite breathtakingly manifested a moment of take off into the blue horizon of the night sky, and the tension and build is simply fantastic. His performance as composer and keyboardist here will live forever, this is simply outstanding and the hallmark of a musician who has really found his musical soul, the repeating base motif, the swirling keyboards, all create a truly magical track of great musical significance.

Our last space dock is a deep and resonating **Interplanetary Panspermia** and at well over 16 minutes, it's easily the longest arrangement of the album. The movement and energy of the last track seems to have left the void and we are

now in a part of space that is uncharted. The sounds employed here by the artist is akin to a ship scanning for life on the many worlds surveyed, but as of yet finding nothing but lifeless hulks of molten rock. Now it's useful living where I do, because most earth languages are based on Greek, and Panspermia comes from the Greek (Pan, meaning all and Sperma meaning Seed), I for one completely believe in life on other worlds and in other regions of space, it's only logical, after all we are here. **Jim Ottaway** has thus produced a superb long form opus of grandeur that should be the back drop for any movie that features the search for alien life within it.

**Deep Space Blue** has taken Ottaway back to a deeper side of his musical personality and as such he has created something profound and arcane for us all to dive deep into. **Jim Ottaway** is a musician of great class and distinction and this album will only emphasise just how far he has come in the industry, and **Deep Space Blue** is like that beacon of light we can go to, when we need to escape from the mundane realities of life.