

The Sentinel

By

Jonn Serrie

Written by

Steve Sheppard

I have been a fan of the music of **Jonn Serrie** for some years now, I have travelled listening to the *Planetary Chronicles* back in 1992, and I have joined with the *Spirit Keepers* during 1998 and have taken a *Stargazers Journey* in 2002, among many other sojourns have occurred as well.

Here as a watcher of time, tide and the great galactic divide, I get the privilege of being commissioned by Jonn himself to take another journey, this time to stand beside **The Sentinel** and gaze into infinity with the grandmaster of synth space music.

We may leave space port now and set our heading to the home world of the first track and the title header, **The Sentinel**, there is something so timeless and peaceful about this opener. Serrie's wondrous skills provide us with the perfect sonic backdrop to explore this realm, the delightful floating energy created is perfection, the construction of this musical narrative is drawn and written with care and sensitivity, but there is also a careful and crafted increase in intensity here, that manifests a sense of movement within the composition too.

My love for all things to do with the universe and space has been with me as long as I can remember, as a child I would gaze up into the stars and wonder. I still do this now; I can still name many of the constellations. I always dreamed of the day that I could take my first trek through the stars; perhaps I can do that now with this album, and even more so with this quite breath taking opus called **Centauri Arrival**. This arrangement is something to behold, the flightpath has been locked in and one can feel through the tones that we are

moving deeper into space. Serrie's talents of creating this mystical world is unrivalled, and as the piece moves forward in our time, that movement through space can be felt by the smooth synth pads and keyboards that must hold a connection to the heavens themselves. The movement gets slightly darker as we draw nearer to Centauri, but that's almost deceptive in its own sense, as just before the 4 minute marker, we can feel a surge of power, as if we are pulling into the planet's atmosphere, and are being guided through a gentler segment as we make contact with the home world for our arrival.

The vast quality of this next oeuvre is the personification of ambient music, and called **Ghost Ships**. This composition is perfectly placed at the mid-way point of our voyage. Serrie gifts us a track that we have to listen to intently, it is impossible for us to be distracted here, the sheer spectral nature of this piece is almost gossamer in construction, its eerie otherworldly textured sounds from the master synth composer, manifests an arrangement that is truly addictive and atmospheric.

Next on our musical star charts is a piece called **Semblance on Laguna 7**, the reflective mood of this track is tranquil and so very harmonious. This composition was one of my favourite locations on the journey; I could have stayed here for years. There is something so lovingly creative about the way Serrie has brought this arrangement into our dimension. This is one of those segments in time that you simply float with; **Jonn Serrie** connects us here with an aspect of our realm that shows us a likeness to ourselves. This is one of the most moving and emotive tracks I have heard from the artist, and I adore every second of its veneer and musical appearance, a sublime moment of genius from the musician.

For our penultimate offering we must move to a location in the Pavo constellation, to witness a performance of beauty from the artist called **The Veils of Beta Pavonis**. This was my overall favourite off the release; one could, through the very delicate synths imagine the clouds lifting on a new day on a new world. **Jonn Serrie** has created a piece here that is bathed in its own beauty and radiating all around the subgiant; it is the vibrations of a composition that is deeply memorable and extremely moving as well. At just over 4 minutes there is a slight shift, an elevation in tone that is beyond

splendour, and the piece then drifts onwards, with a blissful sense of awareness throughout the remainder of this utterly incredibly serene track.

We now must head back, and we can do that with the last piece called appropriately, **Starship Destiny Homeward**. This long form composition of a dream filled near on 19 minutes is something to applaud. From its early stages we can feel that we're manoeuvring through space traffic, using no more than thrusters, while the sounds of signals and other shipping breaks in over the airwaves. Then as we approach the 3 minute mark, we increase power, set our heading and course and we're once more moving at vast speeds through our musical galaxy.

The skill set of **Jonn Serrie** to creative such a wonderful musical narrative is amazing, and has to be acknowledged. As we move through this masterful opus, we gain a sense of momentum, and the segment takes on a slightly more emphasised and traditional EM styled mode. Listen to the midway point of this track, Serrie's creative genius comes into play; it is as if we are picking up signals from another source, as we head through a region of deep space. Energy of mystery and caution can also be found here within a quite outer worldly performance on synths. This is one enthralling and mesmerizing arrangement, one that you will want to revisit many times over.

The Sentinel as an album is the apex of space based music, and of course we have come to expect genius like this from **Jonn Serrie**, throughout the many years of his quite astoundingly brilliant releases. Here though is a musical journey through the universe that has a real sense of ambience and wonder, a journey through the sound and mind of its creator and a moment in music, that should you make the correct decision and purchase it, will live with you for ever, in a continuum of music that never fades, and is therefore thoroughly recommended.