

Brainstorming

By

Tsode

Written by

Steve Sheppard

A new artist comes across my path and a fresh new album opens up its doorways' for us to once again explore, on another musical journey. The artist is **Tsode**, and the album is **Brainstorming**.

There is nothing like listening to something new and fresh and this album falls gently into both categories with ease, The opener called **Amanecer** which I believe is dawn or daybreak in English, is sublime perfection. A gentle start, a steady build, then the percussion builds and explodes with the keyboards, as our musical sun lights up our way on a brand new day.

We follow that up, with a somewhat deeper composition called **A Darker Purpose**. We can sense through the keyboards a feeling of apprehension and a darkness of purpose, this would fit a sci-fi movie with ease, now this has a subtle cinematic quality about its construction and also a very clever use of ethereal vocals to create a really moody piece.

The title track is next and **Brainstorming** floats from *Jean Michael Jarre* and *David Wright* in style. The electronic flavour of this offering is inspiring and extremely melodic. **Tsode** on keyboards is an inventive composer and once again uses voice samples to add a depth and quality, in what is one of my personal favourite up-tempo tracks from the release.

The mastery of **Tsode** is unveiled further on the next piece called **Lost in Unconsciousness**; this has all the hall marks of a *Vangelis* arrangement and is utterly super. The revved up guitar seals a classic track if I have ever heard one, and what a stunningly well produced piece this is to bathe in.

A thoughtful musician will know when to take the foot off the gas and allow the lush creativity of artistic brilliance to show, and on **Heaven's Walker** we have just that. This down tempo styled arrangement has such an emotive energy about its construction; the gentle melody is both reflective and incredibly beautiful and the crescendo and percussion only go to make this piece yet another favourite of mine. Once more **Tsode** creates a cinematic composition of great quality.

We now step carefully into the second half of the release and find an offering called **Elevation Angle**. The ambience here is vast, but smooth and fluent, the intention of the percussion at around the half way mark is clever and artistic and prepares the listener for a slight change in energy, which occurs just before the 3 minute mark. **Tsode** has also built in a sense of movement within this track as well, and created a juxtaposition between the first segment and the latter.

A grandstand piece is now upon us, this one is called **Odisea** and if you ever wanted to listen to a soundtrack for a movie perhaps about the *Odyssey* by *Homer*, this would be it. **Tsode** adds instrumentation, builds in a thundering crescendo and lays down an empowering guitar segment in a track that has all the markings of greatness. The energy of this arrangement is both powerful and moving and manifests an almost *Mike Oldfield* moment of magic for us.

And It Was So is our next offering. **Tsode** uses spoken audio in the creational aspect of the composition, with religious undertones as the main narrative of the composition, however, on a musical basis just listen to the inventive and creativeness of percussion and the amazingly smooth and colourful richness of musical pattern here.

Almost the mirror image of the last offering, we now move to **Dystopia**. This place where badness rules with the rod of fear, and an environmentally degraded landscape is illustrated perfectly with another classic EM styled composition that gains energy and tempo as it travels. The percussion and added female vocalisations create a vision of this dystopic state. Listen also to the stylish manifestation within the progression of this track its simply amazing.

Our penultimate track is a very stylish piece indeed and called **Dulces sueños Pequeña** and I hope I get this close in English, to have a sweet dream? This short form composition has a beautiful childlike lightness about its creation and is music you may well play to a child before they drop off to sleep.

So we are at the last track and what a stunning way to leave what has been a superb album to have been a part of. This one is long form all the way; you have 11 minutes plus, of a slice of genius called **Angels in the Shadows**. A sense of trepidation can be found here as **Tsode** brings into being a whole new reality of space and time into being. **Angels in the Shadows** is one of those pieces you would love to round off a release with, it has everything, a cautious start, a moody creation that uses the subtle crescendo sublimely. As you would expect the pace and intent picks up, which drifts intelligently into a piano segment, then floats into the loving arms of an angelic repose.

I must admit to be pleasantly surprised with **Brainstorming** by **Tsode**, you never know quite what to expect from an artist you have not heard of before, but I tell you this, here within this album lies some of the finest electronic work I have heard for decades. I urge you to all take a listen to this release, **Brainstorming** by **Tsode** is just the shot in the arm this genre needed, and I for one thoroughly recommend it.