

# **The Collective Unconscious**

**By**

**JC Rodriguez**

**Written by**

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It was so refreshing to be able to write a review about an acoustic guitar based album, after all I try and play guitar myself, try, being the operative word. Rodriguez like others is an inspiration to me to try harder, and dedicate time to the instrument I used to have such a love affair with. However on this musical voyage of plenty we take a sojourn with the musician and investigate some of the most vibrant acoustic magical guitar around today on the album **The Collective Unconscious**.

Let's start with the brilliant opener called **Luna Azul**, this is one spectacular offering to get the project underway, it's exciting, extremely colourful and using a few nice chord changes, which add a subtle but full flowing energy to the composition.

The sweet percussive beat and smouldering guitar on **The Collective Unconscious**, the title track, would have been the perfect soundtrack for my walk along the coast line of the Mediterranean this morning, the flavour here is rich and full, but perfectly played to a pitch of great warmth and expression. One could easily picture this track being used as part of a video depicting the area in Cyprus where I live, simply delightful with every string played.

Rodriguez and his uniqueness in style is amazing, and on **Miss Coy** we hear that brand of masterful skill emanate from both electric and acoustic guitar, I have listened intently to this release and this track, and it is that little rock ethic in the mix, that sets the artist aside from many others.

I was seriously thinking about my next Jazz show and the one and only *Dave Brubeck* and saw this track **Take Five** come up, to my surprise, a very pleasant

one I may add, this version of that great jazz classic is sublime and extremely well performed, in fact this rendition is going to go on my next broadcast as a methodology of musical perception in motion, the artist has all the little nuances within the this arrangement that should be there and more, I'm sure would be even bring a smile from most Jazz purists too.

Pianist *Hope Harrison* joins Rodriguez on this next offering called **Mary's Song**, a really moving track it is as well, there is a real aged energy to this offering one that creates a deep sense of sadness within the composition, and a reflective energy that hits home hard, the symbiotic partnership of Harrison and Rodriguez manifests a moment of musical mastery and truly touches the emotions.

I remember back in the 70's listening to another version of **Pavane pour une infante défunte**, but by electronic music composer, the late, but always great *Isao Tomita*. I have bittersweet memories of this piece; I remember it built the bridge of musical oneness between my father and me, from his deep classical roots to my electronic, new age ones. This arrangement by the guitarist is incredibly inventive and quite clever at times, and one that deserves to be listened to over and again, just to enjoy each and every nuance that lies deep within this really moving and emotional offering.

Let's now go short form with a piece called **Dee**, at just over a minute **JC Rodriguez** pulls off a master stroke and almost sounds like the alter ego of *Richie Blackmore* whilst doing so, a very classy 61 seconds indeed.

**Echo** is our last port of call, the harmonics at the beginning were lush and the fluent performance that followed was literally picturesque at every corner, but who would have expected the screaming electric guitar at around 90 seconds into the composition. I stated earlier that the artist gave himself an edge by utilising the rock styled ethic on this album and here you have a fine example of that moment of genius, one that worked for me and completed our journey and this particularly song beautifully.

**The Collective Unconscious** is an album of sublime performances and well thought-out arrangements. It is a musical journey easy to take, but one that seems to literally fly by. This is an album of depth, not just a release of acoustic guitar playing in a flamenco style, simply put, this is an album that has it all,

everything guitar fans are drawn to will be found on this album, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have, when you have made the sensible decision to purchase it.