

# Existence

## Band Members

Gerard Leveque

**Drums**

Richard Lanthier

**Bass and Moog Taurus**

Francois Beaugard

**Violin**

Gaston Gagnon

**Lead guitar and voice**

Eric Pilon

**Lead guitar tracks 13, 14, 15.**

Alan Charles

**Piano, keyboards, rhythm guitar, bass and voice**



## Small People, Short Story, Little Crime

### The Review

Released October 1999

This band come from Quebec, Canada and what a cracker of a concept album this is with a running time of 63 min. The CD booklet is a rather lavish affair to match the superb music. The music leans heavily on the violin but the guitar also plays it part as do the piano/keys on the middle section. The album can be broken down into 3 sections, tracks 1 to 4, 5 to 11 and 12 to 16.

Opening this concept is a drum solo, thankfully only 53 secs. We then move into "Beauty Teen", "No Hero" and "The Journey", all of which have prog/rock/and blues influences and also a nice use of the violin, with the latter two tracks resembling Yoke Shire, Geoff Mann and fellow countryman, Franco.

The 22:38 min. mid section of this concept, "In The Kingdom Of Madness", opens with "Dripping Cloud" and we are talking a whole new ball game here. This is good prog rock with piano and violin. These two instruments continue to feature heavily on "No Sun Can Shine", this track gives you the shivers it's so good. This is a major, spell binding piece of work which becomes very emotional stuff as the guitar and violin duet. "Darkness" follows with piano/violin and emotional vocals till the drums and guitar kick in, this is grand stuff. By the time track 9 "Open Letter To My Friends" arrives it hits you that this is beginning to resemble Landmarq especially as the vocals take on a dramatic/theatrical edge a-la Damian Wilson. This is supreme prog with excellent guitar/keys as it drifts into the equally dramatic "Farewell From The Lone Poet" again with Landmarq style theatrics, good guitar and keys and ending with frenzied violin. This section closes with a gentle, mood creating, emotional guitar instrumental "Whispers (The Theme, pt. IV) which is far too short.

We now enter the final phase of this album with "Business As Usual" as it returns to the opening influences of

blues/rock/prog although now it does not seem so out of place but fits in with previous sections and eventually ends with frenzied guitar/violin, this is excellent prog. Track 13, "Flowers Won't Do", unfortunately begins as if every clichéd piece of lyric writing has been dug out of the book but then the violin enters and the tempo drops as the lyrics and music take on a more meaningful edge and a tuneful guitar ends this track in style.

Track 14 "Another Fine Day Of..." is a prog/rock track which opens with guitar, keys and violin then the tempo drops. This then transcends onto another plain as it drifts into a deep atmospheric section with guitar and melancholy violin. This is a major, complex piece of writing which is melodic and supreme.

Track 15, "Overtime", has blues/rock/jazz influences, with the violin and guitar creating a good groove as the vocals take on a Damian Wilson style urgency.

The album ends with the 02sec. "Therapy, pt. II" with a voice that says "Any other questions?". Well, I for one have. When's your next masterpiece due for release?

This is refreshing and original with a touch of inspiration. This is a major album, Don't miss it !

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