

Frank Van Bogaert web site

www.frankvan

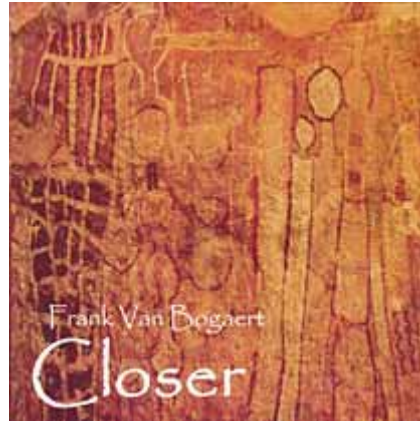


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Frank Van Bogaert :Closer (Groove Unlimited GR-112)

My favorite release is Frank V new album "Closer". It grabb in places where music seldom The melodies and songs are i vain of the best works of Van an own feel and style, secon none. Here the master is equ in all areas except for the bombastic pieces. And I think only because there are no

bombastic pieces on "Closer". All tracks are gems that shine in musical light. **For me a milestone in melodic electronic mu:**

Ron Boots, E-news oct.2004

FRANK VAN BOGAERT. Closer GR-112

Frank Van Bogaert's latest release maintains the high standards his previous four albums which makes it a must-have for lovers grandiose, symphonic & distinctly beautiful synthmusic.

As soon as the uplifting & dynamic title track gets underway it's obvious that Frank has stolen the crown that Vangelis once wor building from a single bassline that is soon augmented by tymph flourishes & fine piano work which then builds towards the uplift dynamic chorus. This uplifting feel has always been an importar element of Frank's work & it continues during the following "Co For Air" with its sumptuous blend of symphonic sounds & choir mixture that works just as well on the ethnic-flavoured "Rorogv unison with some beautifully understated piano work, all of whi a real treat for the heart that's not in the slightest bit twee due the genuinely emotional music he creates; just listen to the bittersweet "Falling Leaves" for proof of this & on the same not the heart-melting mix of gentle synth swells & Frank De Ruytte that graces "High Above" doesn't make you feel all warm & rom inside then your heart must be a cold barren wasteland. "Good Song" gives Frank the chance to demonstrate his considerable p skills, again in unison with an expert mix of symphonics & a tou analogue rhythms at the start. This might sound like a bad com but the latter's influence is so negligable that it hardly counts b it is welcome just for that little bit of variety it brings. As the album nears its end the pace becomes noticeably slower & sed "Sweetness" again benefitting from a nice mix of piano & string "Night Brings Silence" takes this one step further as isolated pi notes fall like snowdrops over a static backdrop that is punctua a palette rich strings here & there.

Throughout the album it's again obvious that Frank's musical & compositional skills are virtually unequalled in the current EM scene. In fact the only thing that gets me down is why isn't he selling as many albums as Vangelis? Surely no-one can doubt that he deserves more!

Mick Garlick, Sequences Magazine, UK

Closer is Frank Van Bogaert's 5th release and another gem in a series of releases that began back in 1998 with **Colours**. This CD really shows off Frank's keyboard skills and his ability to create great depth and feeling. The music on this CD is a mixed bag and moves from the up tempo tracks that bounce to atmospheric tracks that give the listener a relaxing place to hang out and drift away. Frank manages to move without having jagged cuts from one style to another which allows the listener to move smoothly through the entire CD.

There are quite a number of tracks on this release with 14 songs in 64'17" which gives the listener a rather nice variety of music to all in one package. Some highlights that should provide the listener with more than enough reason to pick up this CD include the title track **Closer** which comes out with a synth beat that drives the song forward and some keyboard textures that give it a down to earth feel at the same time.

Having been a fan of Deep Forest's 1st CD, it was interesting to see Frank's interpretation of **Sweet Lullaby** here on his CD. This is an excellent example of Frank to mark this melody with his own style and make the song his own again. Very recognizable as the melody that sticks in your head after you have heard it a few times but also very much a product of Frank Van Bogaert's skillful rendering of the song in his own style.

Another favorite song from this package is called **Dans** which is a beat heavy track with some very deep bass lines and a great use of voices to add to the overall feeling of the song. One of my quiet favorites is **Falling Leaves** a delicate song that evokes the feeling of fall with a sparse use of instrumentation and where the keyboard in the foreground takes center stage. It reminds one of the great piano music that came out of Windham Hill and Narada with the likes of David Lanz. While it is rather short at 3:21 it is definitely a spotlight on Frank's musical abilities as a keyboard player.

All in all this is a well balanced set of songs that is both accessible and entertaining. Frank sounds as if he is having a fun time exploring different musical styles and we the listeners have the benefit of tagging along for the ride. Definitely some smooth grooves that would fit quite nicely in a listening setting ala Kaleidoscope where Frank De Ruytter offers us some great keyboard licks. Frank Van Bogaert also offers up some great beats as well as some thoughtful and reflective tunes as well. A great set that would be a welcome addition to most anyone's music collection. **Recommended.**

Reviewed by Michael Foster (Jan 2005)

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The music of Belgian composer Frank Van Bogaert has always fascinated me. Ever since the first time I listened to "Geographic" (his second album) his musical style got the hooks in me .. and I think this may well be the case for all people who love electronic music in the style of Vangelis or even Michel Jarre.

By his colleagues reviewers he is often called the " Belgian Vangelis" but in my opinion is not an inappropriate comparison , but I really have to emphasize on the fact that he has developed his own personal style which has ofcourse influences of the great Greek, but is always recognizable as "Van Bogaert".

My first impression is that "Closer" is a more intimate album than "Geographic", " Docking "and " Human", his previous releases . The themes (and there are quite some themes here) are often, more melodic and more relaxing.

Although in Frank's work the piano (acoustic or electric) has always played a prominent role on "Closer" it has even become more prominent

"Closer" , the opening and title track of the CD, is a more up-to-date lush synth sounds and swirling effects, in fact it immediately sounds like "vintage Van Bogaert" .

The song is entirely built around a simple but very catchy melody which is one of Frank's strengths.

This same theme can be heard again on track 7, "Closer (reprise)" a different and more acoustic arrangement , again showing the same beautiful melody.

"Coming up for air" , the next track, brings back the atmosphere created in his 90's works like Oceanic and Voices. In fact , this lush atmosphere is a bit the main feel of the album.

"Rorogwela", is a traditional theme ,original from the Solomon Islands (one that has also been interpreted by Jan Garbarek and by Dee Dee Bridgewater one of Frank's inspiration sources). This theme, known all around the world because of Deep Forest's giant hit "Sweet Lullaby" , really gets to the heart by the typical style of the Belgian . It sometimes reminds me of

As I have already mentioned, on this album (with a total of 14 tracks) the slow themes and relaxing pieces are more present than ever . You really should listen to pearls like "Falling Leaves" or "A Picture" where he plays the piano in such an intimate way

Other ,more medium tempo tracks like "Caleidoscope" or "Euro" are very surprising because of the way the mixture between electric and acoustic instruments is evolving to a kind of symphonic grandeur. "Dans [da:ns]" , the most rhythmic track of the album, starts with orchestral sounds and evolves gradually to a very powerful sequenced rhythm.

There's just so much energy in this track !

The last track "Night Brings Silence" , carried by delicious melodic soundscapes and accompanied by sparse and gentle piano notes, ends the the end of this album.

This is just the way an epilogue should be.

If you already own previous work of this Belgian musician ,Closer is a bit different, will certainly not disappoint.

If you don't ,and like the music of the musicians I mentioned, it is clear that Frank Van Bogaert needs to be discovered by you !

(c) Jorge Sergio Iglesias

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Frank van Bogaert maakt zeker geen echte progressieve rock, maar artiest van eigen bodem maken we graag een plaatsje vrij op de markt. Vooral omdat veel liefhebbers van progrock niet afkerig staan tegen elektronische muziek. Frank, eigenaar van de gereputeerde ACF Aartselaar, maakt elektronische muziek die heel sterk tegen de tijd aanleunt.

Met Closer is hij aan zijn vijfde cd toe en de internationale bijval maakt dat we bezwaarlijk naast zijn werk kunnen kijken. Zijn muziek is erg gewaardeerd door documentairemakers die er de perfecte voorbeelden in terugvinden. Zelfs tot in Japan heeft hij zich op die manier toegevoerd. In 2000 kreeg hij zelfs drie awards van de Duitse radio voor beste artiest in het genre.

Wie zich aan vergelijkingen waagt, komt al gauw uit bij Vangelis. Het is duidelijk dat van Bogaert veel naar deze grote componist heeft geleerd, maar betekent zeker niet dat hij de grootmeester in het genre copieert, maar de invloeden zijn duidelijk hoorbaar. Je zou kunnen stellen dat hij de basis legt voor Franks muziek, maar de moderne klanken geven de nummers een eigen karakter.

Van Bogaert heeft ook duidelijk iets met wereldmuziek. Af en toe hoor je zeer basic, bijna primitieve ritmes in zijn muziek die je meevouwen naar een wereld zonder grenzen. Zo is Rorogwela een pareltje dat gebaseerd is op de traditionele melodie van de Solomon-eilanden dat je doet wegdenken aan het ritme dat de geur van grote regenwouden en uitgestrekte savannes meevoert. Onmiddellijk daaropvolgend laat je de aarde los om te gaan verkennen in High Above. Elke vorm van ritme wordt hier gebruikt in contrast met het vorige nummer - losgelaten om de dromerige invloeden van de synthesizers hun volle invloed te laten uitoefenen.

Deze cd is duidelijk met veel vakmanschap gemaakt en aan de luisteraar horen dat er niets aan het toeval werd overgelaten. Het grootste hoogtepunt in zijn vaandel voert is ook hier af en toe te horen en erg interessant magistraals (Melting; Dans). Ik kan me best voorstellen dat de luisteraar daarvoor vallen. De variatie die in de cd zit, biedt de luisteraar die voert van de ambient tot aan de randen van de new-age muziek met wereldmuziek-invloeden stammen uit meer dan één cultuur en deze cd nooit gaat vervelen.

Eén ding is jammer. Van Bogaert waagt het nergens om de stap te zetten naar echte prog-geluiden te zetten, hoewel hij er af en toe bijna flirtend naar aanleunt. Luister meer eens naar Europe's Dawn waar je even de indruk krijgt dat Awaken van Yes om de hoek komt kijken. Een dergelijke uitdaging zou zijn muziek nog een breder spectrum geven. Misschien is dat voor een volgend project?

Maar laat het duidelijk zijn, we hoeven echt niet ver te zoeken om te vinden dat Closer een uitstekend werk is.

elektronische muziek van hoge kwaliteit te vinden. Closer is die denkt.

(c) Luc Descamps, Prog-nose magazine, nov 2004

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Belgian keyboard player Frank van Bogaert is amongst those who have the ability to make music of great warmth and depth with synths and samplers. Next to this, he is an excellent composer. He is very much at home in all sorts of music: from pop, via world to orchestral and jazz. On many times, he is regarded the new Vangelis.

On his fifth album "Closer" Frank again creates a showcase that is both light and easy accessible to monumental pieces of great beauty. Just take "Coming Up From Air". This track could easily be used as a background for a film.

Frank's diversity is clear in "Rorogwela" where he uses a tradition originally from the Solomon Islands, also used by Deep Forest (sources of inspiration) and Jan Garbarek.

Big symphonic tunes can be heard in pieces like "Melting", "Europe" and the fantastic "Dans (da:ns)" and "Sweetness".

Sometimes he also just sits down at an (acoustic or electric) piano and dresses this up with synths.

"A Picture Of You" and "Falling Leaves" are fine examples of this. At other times, he lets the rhythm do the job, not forgetting the "Closer", "Caleidoscope".

With "Closer", Frank adds another highlight to his growing number of masterpieces. If you have heard one of them you want them all.

(c) 2004 Press Information

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Frank van Bogaert - Closer 14 / 64:05 Groove Unlimited (2004)

Der "belgische Vangelis", Frank van Bogaert, hat wieder zugeschlagen und bringt mit „Closer“ sein mittlerweile fünftes Werk auf den Markt. „belgischer Vangelis“ ist hier nicht negativ gemeint, vielmehr bedeutet es, dass Frank es wie kein anderer Musiker drauf hat, die Musik vor sich aufzunehmen und sie in einer eigenen Art zu spielen. Dabei ist er nicht nur wie Vangelis zu seinen besten Zeiten, sondern - wie ich finde - noch besser. Erinnerungen an Klassiker wie „Antarctica“, „Chariots On Fire“, „Direct“ oder „Blade Runner“ werden wach.

Während sich der „große Grieche“ in Richtung Klassikmusik wegbewegt hat, man höre sich nur mal das sehr orchestrale „Mythodea“ an, hat Frank van Bogaert seinen Stil der 80'er aufgenommen und mit neuen Ideen versehen. Herauskommt ein sehr warmer, melodischer Sound, der die Haut geht.

Mit dem Stück „Rorogwela“ befindet sich ein Track auf dem Album. Der Ursprung in einer Melodie eines traditionellen Songs von den Salomonen hat. Dies wäre sicher noch keine Erwähnung wert, jedoch wurde in den 90'ern schon einmal sehr erfolgreich von dem Projekt Deep Forest unter dem Titel „Sweet Lullaby“ umgesetzt und auch Jan Garbarek schon interpretiert. In der Sportsendung „Anpfiff“, die bei RTL live, wurde der Deep Forest-Song mit seiner sehr schönen eingängigen Melodie eingesetzt. Da Frank diese Melodie ebenfalls gefiel und sie sich seinen Gehirnwindungen festsetzte, hat er auf „Closer“ seine eigene Version eingespielt.

Neben symphonisch angelegten Stücken wie „Melting“ und „Eure“ finden sich sanfte Stücke wie „A Picture Of You“ und „Falling Leaves“. In denen sanfte Geigen- oder Pianoklänge im Vordergrund stehen. Silberling. Rhythmischer und Sequenzerorientiert geht es dann bei „Closer“ und „Caleidoscope“ zu. Letzteres enthält darüber hinaus jazzige Elemente. Den Abschluss bildet mit „Night Brings Silence“ ein melancholischer Titel. Alle Songs sind aber sehr eingängig.

Frank interpretiert die 14 Stücke, die zwischen 1:42 und 7:30 Minuten Spielzeit liegen, mit einer Leichtigkeit und Selbstverständlichkeit und Spielfreude sofort auf den Zuhörer überspringt. Mit „Closer“ ist ein ganz hervorragendes Album gelungen. Wer die oben genannten Vangelis kennt, kommt um diese CD nicht herum. Bei dieser Produktion ein Gänsehautfeeling angesagt.

Stephan Schelle, Oktober 2004

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Frank Van Bogaert "Closer" (Groove Unlimited, 2004)

The title track has some sequenced synths and rich sounds at the beginning. It then incorporates a nice piano melody (very much in the style of Vangelis). It's a rhythmic / melodic track that involves some modern elements, but the rhythm itself.

Typical Frank Van Bogaert in his "composed" mode. Some voice is heard.

Overall, it's a very cheering, upbeat number. "Coming Up For Air" gets very atmospheric with this one, the beginning sounding very much like Vangelis with sequences and a great melody playing on top. Again it's a (mostly improvised) track and a very tasty one, full of grandeur and, well, class!

The synth sounds are very rich and there are also some choirs (like the ones used on "Conquest of Paradise") that play an important role. The track has something of a 90's Tangerine Dream quality to it (perhaps?). "Rorogwela" is based on a traditional melody from the Solomon Islands. I find it a beautiful, melodic World Music track, very easy to listen to but quite substantial to maintain interest. Very good. "High Above" is ambient, with floating, velvet synths all over the place.. Beautiful. "Closer" also has some brilliantly rendered sax melody floating on top of

The track sounds more or less improvised. The next cut is called

Lots of piano on this one and a marching electronic rhythm. The pretty relaxed. Some heavier drums appear in the second part. The main melody is pretty catchy which reaffirms once again that Frank Van Bogaert has a real knack for creating great melodies, certainly being one of the best composers on the EM scene today. "Of You" - a sad, romantic track. So simple, but SO beautiful! The outstanding! I'll give it to Frank, he really managed to touch my one.

Next comes a short reprise of the title track which features an a melody, but in a more floating, rhythmless setting. We are slow towards "Caleidoscope" and you can't imagine my delight when out it's largely an improvised track!! Very cosmic beginning with delicious sounds. So perfectly done, and then this rhythmic, jaz improvisational jam, with electric pianos, keyboard sounds, syn

This is the Frank Van Bogaert I like most (the style which was f "Human") and I found this track simply amazing! I'd go anywhere music playing. "Europe's Dawn" - a slow beginning and, what's improvised track!! By this moment I'm already in heaven but this more perfect than heaven itself. A very relaxed rhythm, myster and improvised structures. This one delivers the goods big time stated earlier this is the kind of stuff I like most, so this album I day already.

"Good Morning Song" is a mid-tempo, melodic number that returns more composed style of Frank's music.

"Dans [da:ns]" features a stomping rhythm and belinesque sequence combined with male choirs and some voices. Interesting combination. "Falling Leaves" is very evocative of its title. This is really Octob Great track!

"Sweetness" is very romantic but gets rather intense towards the fact that the track is (again) largely improvised makes it all the enjoyable for me.

"Night Brings Silence" is a sparse atmospheric (again - improvised and a perfect way to end this diverse and full-sounding album.

"Closer" has slightly more sequences than usually with Frank's music sees him further developing his unique improvisational style that introduced on "Human" and that yours truly finds extremely enjoyable.

There are many EM albums out there but don't forget that there and then there's GOOD stuff. And with tracks like "A Picture of "Caleidoscope", "Europe's Dawn" and "Sweetness" (plus many other album ranks up with the very best of that second category.

To Human CD review

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