

Flame Dream - Silent Transition BACKGROUND MAGAZINE Review

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<p>Flame Dream - Silent Transition</p> <p>(CD 2024, 62:49, eVe-Records)</p> <p>The tracks:</p> <table><tr><td>1- No Comfort Zone</td><td>(11:27)</td></tr><tr><td>2- Silent Transition</td><td>(12:28)</td></tr><tr><td>3- Velvet Clouds</td><td>(10:30)</td></tr><tr><td>4- Out From The Sky</td><td>(6:26)</td></tr><tr><td>5- Signal On The Shores</td><td>(7:02)</td></tr><tr><td>6- Winding Paths</td><td>(14:56)</td></tr></table> <p>Website facebook</p>	1- No Comfort Zone	(11:27)	2- Silent Transition	(12:28)	3- Velvet Clouds	(10:30)	4- Out From The Sky	(6:26)	5- Signal On The Shores	(7:02)	6- Winding Paths	(14:56)	
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Maybe unbelievable, but true, Swiss symphonic prog band **Flame Dream**, return with their seventh album after a 38-year hiatus. The new album is called *Silent Transition*, and the band are back in the original line-up with extra guitarist **Alex Hutchings**, a British jazz/fusion/rock guitar picker who has toured, among others with no one less than **Steven Wilson**.

The album opens with a track called *No Comfort Zone* and this one already sets the tone/trend for the rest of the songs, as it is an almost epic symphonic rock song with a "lovely" groove and the sound of Flame Dream could be described as a blend of the sound of bands like **UK**, **Supertramp** and **Van der Graaf Generator**. Next is the title track featuring a great guitar riff and two excellent guitar solos, making this track a must listen to for guitar fans. *Velvet Clouds* is also one of the highlights of this remarkable "comeback" album; especially the instrumental middle part which is a true musical symphonic rock showcase of drummer **Peter "Pit" Furrer**, bass player **Urs Hochuli**, keyboarder **Roland Ruckstuhl**, singer **Peter Wolf** and the earlier mentioned guitar picker Hutchings.

The quieter piano ballad *Out From The Sky*, the shortest song of the album, features a rather weird sacral vocal passage and it is a track that I would probably skip sometimes while listening to this album. Follow up *Signal On The Shores* is an instrumental highlight featuring very melodic and intricate prog rock music. Finally, the listener is treated to the longest song of the album called *Winding Paths*. This epic song, clocks in

over 14 minutes and it is the milestone on this album, all excellent musical ingredients from Flame Dream come together in this impressive track; check out the bombastic orchestral end!

Overall, Flame Dream has made a more than excellent symphonic prog/rock album, definitely their best work yet and so *Silent Transition* is a MUST listen for fans of symphonic prog. Listening tip: *Signal On The Shores*.

**** Martien Koolen (edited by Dave Smith)

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