

Shaolin Afronauts – Flight Of The Ancients (2011)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 21 July 2011 09:16 - Last Updated Thursday, 23 April 2015 20:42

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1. *Journey Through Time* 2. *Rise With The Blind* 3. *Flight Of The Ancients* [play](#) 4. *Shaolin Theme* [play](#)

5. *Kilimanjaro* 6. *Shira* 7. *The Quiet Lion* 8. *The Scarab*

Band members: Ross McHenry – bass Kevin Van Der Zwaag – drums Tim Bennett, Jarrad Payne - percussion Andrew Crago – saxophones Adam Page – flute, soprano saxophone John Hunt – bass clarinet, baritone saxophone Luca Spiler – trombone Chris Weber - trumpet Lachlan Ridge, Dylan Marshall – guitar

Heavily inspired by the sounds of 1970's West Africa, Ethiopia and the pioneering avant-garde Jazz artists of the same period, The Shaolin Afronauts draw on the this highly innovative and sometimes volatile era in music, using it as inspiration to create music with the same fire and intensity. Kicking off with 'Journey Through Time', the multiple layers of percussion and rhythms indeed unleash an unstoppable groove, which is nicely balanced against the albums slower, more introspective moments which prove that contemporary Afrobeat doesn't always have to be an unrelenting, up-tempo assault on the senses and can provide moments of sheer beauty and reflection. This added element of subtlety sets The Shaolin Afronauts music apart from much of the recent crop of other bands with similar influences, Freestyle Records. ---Editorial Reviews

The mysterious afro-soul of the Shaolin Afronauts first echoed across dance floors in late 2008 and upon listening to their debut album on the UK's Freestyle label one might swear that they could not be of this land! But they are and Adelaide be their turf. And yes, they have graced the Womadelaide stage, winning hearts & minds along the way. Heavily inspired by the sounds of 1970's West Africa, Ethiopia and the pioneering avant-garde jazz artists of the same period, the

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Shaolin Afronauts draw on this innovative and sometimes volatile era in music, using it as inspiration to create the same fire and intensity. Though there is a refreshing and original air about the Afronauts, their music could be described as somewhere between Fela's heavy Afrobeat and the Ethio-Jazz of Mulatu Astatke. The key to the Afronauts' sound is an 11-strong line-up, which comprises a 3-piece horn section, 5-piece rhythm section and 3 percussionists. Their polyrhythmic approach layers the sound with mesmerizing and hypnotic textures.

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