

California Guitar Trio - Andromeda (2010)

Written by bluesever

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1. Cathedral Peak 2. Turn of the Tide 3. Andromeda 4. Improv IX 5. Hazardous Z [play](#)
6. Chacarera 7. Improv VII 8. Middle of TX 10. Portland Rain 11. Improv I
[play](#)

Personnel: Paul Richards: guitars; Bert Lams: guitars; Hideyo Moriya: guitars; Tyler Trotter: Moog.

California Guitar Trio celebrates its twentieth anniversary on *Andromeda*. Protégés of iconic progressive rock guitarist Robert Fripp (of King Crimson fame), the trio's distinct and borderless methodologies have garnered acclaim throughout the past two decades. The band was often the opening act during King Crimson's late 1990s and early 2000s renaissance. Here, the artists and special guests pay a bit of homage to the constellations.

"Andromeda" finds the trio incorporating a touch of classical inferences and folk-rock, with Tyler Trotter enveloping and treating the overall muse via streaming Moog effects. The primary thrust of this piece centers on the guitarists' interweaving ostinato voicings, that cast a flowing and prominent chordal impression. Dynamics abound, as the musicians render highs and lows with a linear gait that offers a race-against-time vibe. The trio culminates the memorable melody with soaring lines, amid an absorbing and sublime theme that simply caresses the soul. ---Glenn Astarita, allaboutjazz.com

A chance meeting led to the formation of the California Guitar Trio. Paul Richards (Salt Lake

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City, Utah). Bert Lams (Affligem, Belgium) and Hideyo Moriya (Chiba, Japan) were studying with Robert Fripp in 1987 and joined the King Crimson legend on Fripp's League of Crafty Guitarists tour. In 1991 they founded the trio and have been performing and recording on and off since then, always keeping in touch.

Their music went sky high, being used as the soundtrack for numerous documentaries about outer space. One of their tracks was picked to wake the astronauts aboard the NASA space shuttle "Endeavor". No wonder that they named their new album Andromeda, their first album featuring only original material. The tracks flow together to build a musical stream of consciousness. The musicians play within each other, taking sidesteps when the moment strikes them. The title track has a speeded up medieval tempo, the kind that Mike Oldfield popularized in the early Seventies. He is an obvious influence. They covered a part of Tubular Bells on their previous cover album Echoes. A hint of Spain comes along in Hazardous Z, and a slow rumble introduces Middle of TX with a flawless steel guitar.

Andromeda is an album that grows on you. Just when you think you've dissected all the goings on, you will find something new and rewarding.

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