

Musically, **Anaphora** play a very melodic and deep kind of prog rock/metal with a dreamy atmosphere where lead singer Cathy Soler shines. Her voice is sweet and warm, with a very identifiable tone, and her singing is absolutely hypnotizing, very emotional and varied, bringing the album's concept and beautiful lyrics to life in an absolutely amazing way. With a different tone yes, but more than often Cathy reminds me of Sabine Edelsbacher from **Edenbridge**, and in my book, that's a very good thing. I could never define her voice in one word, but I would in three: character, charm, feeling.

Behind her, Cathy has a very tight team. Stéphane Bucheron's keys are restrained and while sometimes make some songs too "Pop", they are skilfully used to build a dreamy atmosphere where the other instruments are left free to weave the well weighted melodies that this album offers us. Prog rock/metal it is, but this translates into intelligent music structures, and speed changes that take songs into unexpected directions, always preferring soul to show-off.

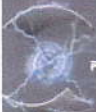
On the other hand, RV Math's guitar strikes me as particularly impressive. He fills the album with tasteful, skilled and hypnotic solos and some very well crafted riffing and even sings a whole song. He does well, but once you hear Cathy, it will be very hard to accept anything else. Around him, the whole band comes together very well and functions as an organic unit where every detail seems well thought over and nothing is even slightly out of place.

An amazing album all around, the first four songs are absolutely brilliant. "**La nuit me condamne**" clearly illustrates this with the atmospheric keys and orchestrations, plus the speed changes just before just before the chorus line. "**Envoûtée**" further illustrates this, but I would have to name "**Damon**" as the best music of the whole album. The whole rhythm section is sublime and Math brilliantly shows his talent for riffs that strike you down with their good taste, melody and emotional power, a perfect example of how professional and talented **Anaphora** sound.

Throughout the rest of the album, Cathy always reaches your heart with each chorus line and by the time we get to "**Après les rêves**", we're left with the feeling we've just arrived back home from a wonderful journey to which we want to return quickly.

"**Après les Rêves**" is one of the most intimate and heartfelt albums I've heard this year and nothing, from the intelligent instrumentals to the marvellous, would let you know this is such a new band. Buy this album anywhere you can, for it is strongly recommended to any fan of good prog rock/metal. In fact, if anything delayed this review, it was the number of times I've already heard this album simply for the enjoyment of it.

Thank you **Anaphora** for the review sample and for the amazing hours of musical pleasure it has given me so far.




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