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### (Sic)monic - Somnambulist



*(Sic)monic blend deathcore with rock and progressive on Somnambulist*

It has been a while since rock and metal has seen a group that is as talented as (Sic)monic. Comprising only five members, their latest album, *Somnambulist*, sounds like it features ten. Technically, *Somnambulist* is (Sic)monic's first album. They released *Look to the Skies* back in 2006 on their own record label, but their latest album basically includes all the songs reworked with a few new tracks involved. It is very hard to classify where this album falls, genre-wise; it's hard rock, progressive, fusion, and deathcore/ death metal all at the same time. There's even a bit of country mixed in to add to the bizarre appeal of the album. *Somnambulist* has been in the works for almost three years. However, it was well worth the wait.

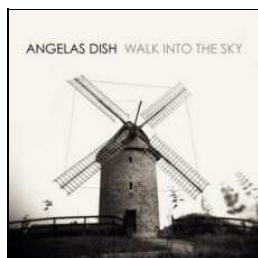


As far as *Somnambulist's* musical style goes, it is all over the place. Some tracks like "To the Fiendz" are technical death metal crunchers with a mix of hardcore shouts, death metal growls, and clean vocals. Consider it a mix of Periphery and Fleshwrought. The music is engaging and constantly frantic with little room for a letdown. "Till Morning Light" is a more alternative rock oriented track, dominated by progressive riffs and clean vocals. The clean vocals sound like Chad Gray from Mudvayne a bit. "Illumination" is a great progressive metal track with a lengthy solo. "Of Blood and Grace" is a schizophrenic track that starts out soft and grim, like stoner doom, and suddenly becomes a screaming psychopath before calming down again. It's like bi-polar disorder at its most gracious. "Requiem" is very slow and moody, featuring solely clean vocals and acoustic guitars. It is probably the softest song on the album, but not the craziest.

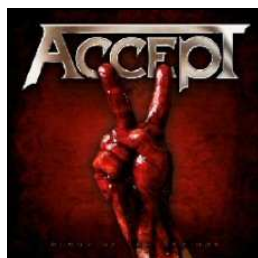
"Just How Far Down Do You Want To Go" is the craziest song. It features a fiddle which adds a huge country element to the music, but combined with the electric guitars it's actually a very ambient, progressive metal track. The vocals are all over the place, from clean singing, to screams, to even rapping! This is just a brilliant display of how talented (Sic)monic is. "Paradesium" is another soft, acoustic track that is more romantic than sombre compared to "Requiem." "Acidic Epiphanies" will certainly grant listeners quite a trip, especially from the jazz-fusion guitar styles. Then out of nowhere the death metal vocals come in and it is hell on earth. "Seven Inches Deep" brings back the rapping along with the brutality of the deathcore; who said rap metal is dead? And mixed in along with it all are some soft, almost spoken word sections that make a Tenacious D impression, without the humour intended. Finally, to close things, "The Devil Went To Georgia" is country gone death metal, but (Sic)monic keep the use of the fiddle to

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leave some original quality.

At times this album may get too random, but it sure will never disappoint. The good part about the randomness is each track has a point. There's no aimless lyrics, no musical sections that rub the ear hole the wrong way. Everything is just made with the best intentions of being more than just the typical metal that is heard these days. Instead of being confined to one area, (Sic)monic explore many different ones, picking and choosing to create a selection of music that is just as witty as it is aggressive. There are so many influences here, from Between the Buried and Me to Job for a Cowboy to Tool to even Willie Nelson. It's certainly worth checking out for those who want something complex and exciting the whole way through without feeling like the band is crashing into any pitfalls with their style.



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**(Aural Music/MVD)**

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