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9.25/10 **Avi**

## AHLEUCHATISTAS - Even In the Midst... - CD - Cuneiform Records - 2007

review by: **Avi Shaked**

Ahleuchatistas was a revelation since listening to 2006' *What You Will*. But don't dismiss *Even In the Midst* because it lacks the thrashing compositions that made *What You Will* so great. It'll eventually hit you.

*What You Will's* excitement was immediate, mind-blowing and fun (in its twisted way). This time, Ahleuchatistas assimilated its complex, highly technical playing and its edgy, avant garde leanings into compositions that stretch out a bit more and deliver in a more dramatic and lyrical way.

The compositions are varied and intricate, carrying tones that range from reflective and sensual to disturbing and aggressive, sometimes within the confines of a single track ("Take Me to Your Leader Never Sounded So Alien," for example). Moreover, the album has a rare, expressionist, narrative feel that helps the twelve tracks function as a whole. Just check out how the tense "The Bears of Cantabria Shall Sleep No More," on which drum strokes counterpoint gentle, resonating guitar plucking and unconventional, squeaking bass, all building upon the power of its preceding track and feeds its dynamic, nearly cathartic, successor ("Prosthetic God").

On the more ambience-oriented moments, most noticeably on the circulating and slightly meditative (yet still packed) closing, "Where We Left Off," a comparison with the UK trio Guapo is evoked, but Ahleuchatistas — as reflected by the compositions, their execution and the production — comes off pointier and brighter.

Oh, an Ahleuchatistas review cannot be completed without mentioning Sean Dail — it seems like this guy can't play anything basic, and his dense, complicated drumming sounds unbelievably natural. In other words... Simply amazing! (9.25/10)

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