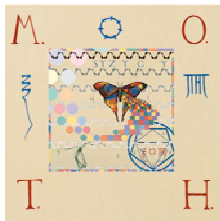


<http://www.kinesiscd.com/storeframe1.htm>

Cleveland, Ohio-based Witsend released their outstanding debut *Cosmos and Chaos* in 1993, one of the classiest American prog rock albums. This is the re-mastered second addition. These guys have chops on the same level as Spock's Beard, but their mostly-instrumental music lacks the Beatles/pop influences of the Beard. Probably influenced most by Yes and ELP, maybe early Ambrosia, with a bit of Steve Hackett thrown in, this is nevertheless quite contemporary in sound and execution.



Syzygy is the same band after taking time out to raise families, and 2003's *The Allegory of Light* vaulted them right back near the top of the American prog rock heap. This is complex, clever, heavily-instrumental prog rock played by top-notch musicians, mixing old and the new. Influences and reference points include ELP, UK, Yes, King Crimson, Gentle Giant, Transatlantic...you get the picture. 63-minutes.

*Realms of Eternity* (2009) was originally going to be a double-CD but has been released as a no-filler, 77-minute single CD. Syzygy has expanded to a quartet with the promotion of bassist & backing vocalist Al Rolik to full-time status, and brought in veteran session singer Mark Boals as guest lead vocalist, as there are greater emphasis on lyrics on this album. The vocals, so often the shortcoming of indie prog bands, are completely professional, and yet instrumental content still dominates. There are loads of leave-you-speechless instrumental fireworks, but also acoustic, pastoral passages worthy of Tull and Genesis. Syzygy sound more british than ever (and to be quite frank, none of the current generation of British bands appear capable of a work like this). With excellent production, this is not only Syzygy's best and most ambitious album, it's the U.S. prog album of the year, quite possibly prog album of the year period. It seems a crime that one can buy this much music of this caliber for so little money.

